

## **Options for weddings where a deacon presides**

*In place of the blessing prayers found in the BAS on pages 548-549 and 534-535, the following should be used.*

Most gracious God, we pray that by the power of your Holy Spirit, you will pour out the abundance of your blessing upon this couple. Defend them from every enemy. Lead them into all peace. Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts, a mantle about their shoulders, and a crown upon their foreheads. May they be blessed in their work and in their companionship; in their sleeping and in their waking; in their joys and in their sorrows; in their life and in their death. Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that table where your saints feast for ever in your heavenly home; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

*Followed by one of these options:*

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace; and from this day forward, may their life together be marked by God's blessing

**Amen.**

All praise and blessing to you, God of love, creator of the universe, maker of humankind in your image and likeness, source of blessing for married life. All praise to you, for you have created joy and gladness, feasting and laughter, pleasure and delight. May N and N. find their shared life marked by your blessing. May they know your presence in their joys and in their sorrows. May they reach old age in the company of friends and come at last to your eternal kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**