

homes and daily lives. May the love of Christ be made plain to ----- so that someday he/she will be brought by grace to the sacrament of baptism and come with all your people to the fullness of the kingdom of love and peace through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

At his birth and prior to his death and resurrection, Jesus was anointed with oil. It is recorded in the Scriptures that anointing with oil was to set a person or object apart for God's special purposes. It signifies the on-going activity of God's Spirit in a life, even before we are aware of it. David was anointed with oil years before he saw the fulfilment of that promise. As such, the symbol of oil stands as a sign of God's future promise in -----life, awaiting its fulfilment.

-----, I anoint you with oil, the Spirit of Christ, praying that the Holy Spirit may in time draw you to Jesus Christ and that you will acknowledge Him as your Lord.

Blessing:

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord turn His face towards you and give you peace. **Amen.**

The Uniting Church in Australia

DANDENONG

THE CONGREGATIONS OF

TRINITY and LEWE TOLU VAKALOU

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE THANKSGIVING OF A CHILD

Presentation: (Elder)

Friends, I present to you ----- who have come today to give thanks to God for the gift of their son/daughter -----

Gospel Reading:

People were bringing their children to Jesus for him to place his hands upon them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them.

When Jesus saw this he was indignant and said "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." And he took the children in His arms, put his hands upon them and blessed them.

Luke 10:13-16

Introduction:

All life comes from God, and children are a gift from God. Within a family, the birth of a child is both a joyous and solemn occasion. In this event we see the wonder of God's loving creativity among us. We are now to share in the joy of ----- and ----- whose lives have been enriched by the gift of their son/daughter (and of ----- as (s) he rejoices in the gift of a brother/sister .)

Prayer:

O God, like a mother who comforts her children, you sustain and nurture us. Like a father who cares for His children, you look upon us with compassion and goodness. We give you thanks and praise for the birth of ----- . We thank you for creating him/her in your image and for breathing into him/her the gift of life. We thank you for the love that ----- and ----- have for each other and for the joy that the arrival of ----- has brought them. Confirm their joy by a lively sense of Your presence in their lives.

By the power of your Spirit, fill their home with love, trust and understanding. Give to them a calm strength and patient wisdom as they seek to bring ----- to love all that is true, noble, just and pure, excellent and

admirable, following the example of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ

Statement by the Parents:

We thank we receive ----- as God's gift in trust for us to nurture and care for. With humility and hope, we promise to love and care for him/her and set before him/her the Christian faith by teaching and example so that in time, he/she may be able and equipped to make his/ her own decision to follow Christ.

In this we ask for the power of the Holy Spirit to lead, guide and teach us. We ask also for the prayers of the Church. Will you support us in this way?

People's Response:

With God's help we will live as a loving community in Christ, nurturing one another in faith, upholding one another in prayer and encouraging one another in service.

Prayer:

Gracious God, from whom every family in heaven is named; strengthen us by your Holy Spirit that we may witness faithfully in our