



The *Green* Celebrant
BABY NAMING & BLESSING



what is a baby naming & blessing?

A Baby Naming & Blessing ceremony is a sacred way to welcome your child into our world.

Many people feel they want to do something “spiritual” to mark the birth of their child, but other than the traditional Christening, don’t know what else is possible. A *Baby Naming & Blessings* ceremony can be simple or intricate, spiritual and sacred as you need it to be, as it is all about welcoming this new soul to our world.

When a new soul enters our world, we want to welcome them with hope, joy and celebration. And we, as travellers on the road of life, become their guides and guardians.

A *Baby Naming & Blessing* can include the planting of a special tree, the naming of godparents/guardian-parents, the blessing of the child, the sharing of the child’s story and name, as well as the offering of poems and gifts to support the parents.

Imagine a ceremony where a child is welcomed into the family of community, in a way that has profound meaning for the parents of the child.

Imagine that a woman holds her week-old child to her breast, with her partner beside her. See that all around her, in a circle, sit their family & friends – their community. And one-by-one, someone from the circle comes forward and with a gently touch to the cloth wrapping the child, offers the child a blessing. And then the next person comes forward, and the next after them, and beautiful words of blessing spill forth: “May you always have food and drink” – “May you be blessed with joy & laughter” – “May you always know how loved you are.”

Welcome to Green Celebrant Ceremonies.



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who is jenneth tollin-graham?

I am a pagan, priestess & teacher.

I am a bard & artisan.

I am a woman & wife.

I am a daughter, sister & aunt.

I craft ceremonies that are deeply moving, intensely spiritual, and shaped with you in mind. And as a registered celebrant, and practising priestess, I offer ceremonies that celebrate life & our earth.

In 2001 I discovered the power of ceremony, and practised rituals with other women that celebrated the moon & the seasons. At that time I was completing a degree in Visual Arts, and loved how my art become another way to express this connection I felt with the beautiful world around me.

In 2012, I began to lead my own ceremonies, working with many different people who all walked their own paths with passion and truth. I began to understand what would work in a ceremony, and what wouldn't. Those early forays into leading ceremony were important learning experiences for me. That, and the patience of my beloved friends as we tried many different things to see what would truly enhance the intensity of a ceremony.



While my ceremonial experience grew, I was still living a separate life in the corporate world. I felt the dissonance between these two lives – one with uniforms and policy manuals and staff meeting minutes; the other with sometimes simple, other times elaborate ceremonies by moon rises and sunsets.

In 2017 I made a big decision, and I left the corporate world, dedicating myself fully to ceremony.

As a long time pagan, and passionate creator of ritual and ceremony, I realised that sharing space with other people was one of the most sacred things I could do. I wanted to be the most authentic version of myself that I could be – and that meant setting aside all the things society told me I “should” do, and following my heart of what I actually felt called to do.

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As a triple Capricorn, I love that my closest friends describe me as compassionate, supportive & curious about life ... as well as focused and organised.

I find that having a structured side to myself means that I can see the way different parts weave together into ceremony, and I can understand and see that natural flow.

As a very creative person – musician, artisan, graphic designer & writer – I bring a powerful balance to that systemised-side of myself. Like walking between two worlds, I can feel the inspiration, and I can also express it. And I thank the gods everyday for this gift.

As a pagan, I hold a deep reverence for our earth, and all living beings that we share it with. And as I try to live a life that is based on eco-ethical decisions, I try to do so with some compassion for myself too, for sometimes I stumble in my intention to do no harm to this world.

But why ceremony? Because I've finally found something that speaks to the deeper part of myself.

To a *Child Naming & Blessing* ceremony I bring:

- A passion for ceremony & a wealth of ceremony experience
- Authenticity, honesty, patience, respect & understanding
- A creative heart & an organised mind
- An understanding of the need to mark the birth of a child in a spiritual manner



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on the day of your ceremony

Sacred Space means that
you are safe, you are loved,
you are welcomed.

From the moment I arrive to set-up for your *Baby Naming & Blessing*, the ceremony has already begun!

Firstly I create a *temenos* - a focal point or 'altar' - using coloured cloth, flowers, leaves and crystals. It becomes a sacred centre during the ceremony, whether we are outdoors in nature, or gathered together indoors.

When your loved ones have arrived, we gather together to begin celebrating your child through story and ceremony. It becomes a beautiful moment of connection, a time when we recognise the amazing wonder it is to bring a child into this world, and the roles and responsibilities we can choose to accept in the care of this child.

We celebrate the hope, love and blessings that your loved ones have for you and your child, and understand that in our modern times it can take a 'village' to raise a child with sacredness and wisdom.



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what happens during the ceremony?

The reason for this ceremony is to affirm the birth and life of your child in a spiritual way.

The ceremony can be shorter (30 mins) or longer (60 mins), depending on how you want to celebrate! It can be an intimate gathering of close friends and family within ritual, or it can be a large and beautiful assembling of many family and friends in celebration. For any style you choose, your ceremony will have hope, love and blessing woven into it, and can include a combination of the following activities:

Welcome

I create Sacred Space and welcome everyone to the ceremony, explaining why we're here, and what we will be doing. This can include deep spiritual elements, or it can be a little more laid-back - whatever you think you and your family and friends will be more comfortable with.

By explaining what is going to happen in the ceremony, people feel more at ease and they want to participate. It also allows for everyone to settle, bring all their attention to you and your child.

Naming the Child

You've gave a *lot* of thought to the name of your child - this is the moment to share the story of *how* you came to that decision. Maybe it's funny, maybe it's poignant - sharing it draws everyone closer to you and your child.



Hopes & Dreams

You then share with everyone what you hope for your child. If there are siblings or grandparents, you may also like to invite them to share their hopes for your child. The beautiful part of this, is that people can express unexpected blessings with beautiful words.

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Sharing poems & inspiring words

Sometimes we come across the words that just speak *exactly* to how we feel - this is the perfect opportunity to include those inspiring words, speeches and poems that light a fire in us. This is a lovely thing to include to family or friends who want to 'do' something during the ceremony - inviting them to find/write words to read during the ceremony will show them that they are important to you, and let them deepen the connection of the ceremony.



Naming of godparents/guardian-parents

Though this can seem an old-fashioned tradition, it offers the child a unique relationship. Along with you, their grandparents, aunts and uncles and their teachers, a godparent is another level of interaction for them as they grow.

The 'naming' part of the ceremony can include the godparents offering promises to the child, offering a gift, or speaking their own blessing.

Vows and Promises

Whilst it can seem a little daunting to include a vow or promise into a ceremony, when they are worded gently and lovingly, they can be a powerful part of a ceremony, done with the godparents, or even with the whole community of people present at the ceremony. For godparents:

Will you be supportive of Oryn, remembering that she is new to this world? (we will)

Will you be encouraging of Oryn when she tries and fails, and inspire her to try again, and again, and again?

Will you be joyful with Oryn, laughing with her, playing with her, and being open to her experiences of this world?

Will you be caring of Oryn, holding her heart and spirit as precious and unique?

Will you be honest with Oryn, offering gentle but truthful words when she needs them?

Will you be understanding of Oryn when she chooses what path she will walk in this world?

Will you honour this vow you have made?

For the community:

Will you love Oryn, care for her, and watch over her?

Will you be truthful and honest with her?

Will you be playful and joyful with her?

Will you be welcoming and encouraging with her?

Will you be understanding of her choices - even if she chooses a path different to your own?

Will you honour this vow you have made?

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Family Heirloom

Maybe there is item that has been passed down through your family, or maybe your parents wish to begin the heirloom tradition by offering your child something one of them has cared for during their life. This could also look like 'giving' the child the family crest, tartan, or other cultural objects.

Written Hopes & Dreams

You may like to invite everyone present to write a message of blessings, hopes and dreams to your child, in a special book. Or maybe you hand out a 'fill in the blank' paper for everyone to complete.



Crystal Blessings

Before the ceremony begins (or during) offer everyone a single crystal to hold whilst thinking about what they hope and dream for this child. You would then go around to everyone with a small bag, accepting everyone's crystal (blessing) to hold onto for your child.



Planting a Tree

Planting a tree (or water the potted tree for planting later) is a powerful way to 'plant seeds' for the future of your child. For as the child grows, so too will this tree, whether you plant it in the backyard or a local forest.

During the ceremony there is the opportunity to invite everyone to drip some drops of water on the plant as they speak words of blessing.

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booking and other information

Booking

To book your ceremony, contact Jenneth directly on:

0415 158 941

TheGreenCelebrant@gmail.com

Ceremony costs

Please see the website for current fees and locations that Jenneth is able to travel to.

What to expect

Before Ceremony

- Initial consultation, in-person or Skype/phone
- Skype sessions/email/phone to confirm the full details of the ceremony

Day of Ceremony

- Preparation, check-in, meet & greet, facilitate ceremony, pack-up & farewell

I supply

- The *temenos* & decorations
- Crystals, blessed water, etc

Deposit & Fee Structure

\$100 deposit is required to hold the date of your ceremony, and is due as soon as this date is confirmed with Jenneth. This ensures that no other ceremonies are booked for that day. The remainder of the fee is due 1 month prior to the ceremony.

For example, a Southern Highlands ceremony total is \$300. It would have \$100 paid to hold the date (initial meeting), and then \$200 one month before the ceremony.

Changing the Date

There is no extra charge to change a date. However, Jenneth must be available for the new date for it to be changed.

Refunds

Please note that there is no refund available for initial \$100 deposit. Nor once the final amount is paid 1 month prior to the ceremony: at each stage of the ceremony preparation, the payments due cover both the holding of the date & planning efforts already completed.

Where full payments have been made and the date needs to be changed, or the ceremony cancelled, it is up to Jenneth's discretion to offer a refund.

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HANDEASTINGS



MAIDENHOOD



BLESSINGWAYS



MOTHERHOOD



BABY NAMINGS



QUEENHOOD



HEALING



CRONEHOOD



REBIRTHING



FUNERALS

Ceremonies are all about people celebrating events that change their life.

www.TheGreenCelebrant.com.au

