



The *Green* Celebrant
MOTHERHOOD BLESSINGWAY



what is a motherhood blessingway?

A Motherhood Blessingway ceremony is the sacred & intentional alternative to a baby shower.

The ceremony is a gathering of womenfolk - those friends and family who you feel love you and support you wholeheartedly on this motherhood and birthing journey that you are on. It offers a woman a chance to be pampered and loved by her closest friends and family in a way that is intentional and spiritual.

It is looking at pregnancy and birthing as a woman-centric rite of passage, that is more than just a 9 month wait for the baby - it is sacred time for women, and deserves honouring.

A *Motherhood Blessingway* can include the painting of a belly with ochre; the creation of a natural mobile to go over the child's crib; a creation of a special "cup" that she will drink from during the labour; or even the creation of a vision board for her to take with her to the birthing.

Imagine a ceremony where a woman, weeks before she gives birth, begins her birthing journey with her beloved friends & family surrounding her.

Imagine a woman with a bared, very pregnant belly, sitting surrounded by her closest friends and family. See that one by one, each person comes to her, and while adding a painted symbol to her belly, offer her blessings for a safe birth. Hear the words they speak to her: "May you find deep breaths within you," – "May the child's head point downwards at all times" – "May the birth be quick!" And as they finish painting, each one offers her a soft kiss on her cheek and a loving smile, which she will remember weeks later, as she goes into labour.

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 *Motherhood Blessingway* 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 pre-birth of a child in a spiritual manner



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who do i invite?

Who always has warm things to say?
Who loves you just as you are?
Who respects & honours you?

When women gather together for ceremony, it can be a powerful experience - a sharing of love, support, experience and hard-earned wisdom.

When you gather together for your ceremony - whether there are 5 or 25 of you! - you want those people around you who understand that this birthing journey is a **big deal**, that maybe you are a little scared or unsure, and what you really want is for them to tell you it's going to be OK.

You want to be assured that you can do this - that you are strong enough, brave enough and wise enough to do it.

So really consider: who do you want to share in this sacred ceremony with? If you think someone will be dismissive or silly or will only have negative advice, then don't ask them.

This is YOUR journey, and it is really and truly up to you who you want around you at this time. Honour yourself by inviting women who are strong, loving and supportive.



What do people bring?

At the end of this ceremony there will be a feast - an opportunity for you all to re-centre after the beautiful wisdom, connection and sharing you've had. It will be also be a celebration of the support and love they feel for you.

So invite your womenfolk to bring one plate of food to share - something wholesome, yummy, and simple.

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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 *Motherhood Blessingway*, the ceremony has already begun!

Firstly I create a *temenos* - a central focal point or 'altar' - using flowers, leaves, crystals, coloured cloth, photos, statues, oracle cards and artworks. It is placed in the centre of the room and becomes the sacred centre we all sit around during the ceremony.

Your chosen loved ones would have been invited to attend, and during the next 1.5 hours we will explore what it means to be woman and mother, friend and supporter.

It is about bringing women closer, and finding tangible ways Investigate that feminine-connection that helps us to be stronger, braver and wiser.

We explore how to connect you to that long line of woman who gave birth before you, with sacredness and wisdom.



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what happens during the ceremony?

The reason for this ceremony is to
prepare you for giving birth in a
spiritual way.

Over 1.5 hours your womenfolk will explore their own ideas of womanhood and motherhood, discover how to support a woman soon-to-begin her birthing journey (you!), seek out their own wisdom as women & learn how to express that in meaningful and powerful ways. It 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 womenfolk will be more comfortable with.

This is also where I offer the guidelines for what we all talk about - while your Great Aunt Matilda may feel it is important to describe her 'near death birthing experience', I will be explaining to everyone that unless the stories and words are positive, supportive and uplifting, they are not to be shared during this ceremony. ***Being scared and worried never helped any birthing woman to feel empowered!***

Who We Are

I will lead everyone into a light meditative state, where I will ask us all to consider - who are we as women? As beings who give birth to life? What are the women of your bloodline known for? What strengths and gifts do you hold?

I will then ask everyone to write a brief 'introduction' of themselves - who they are. It might look like: "I am Sarah, daughter of Jane, daughter of Doris. My women come from Ireland, the lands of mist. We are stubborn women. We are loving women. We are artistic women." We will then go around the circle for everyone to introduce themselves.



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Arcs of Meaning

We will then move into an Art Therapy process whereby everyone explores what motherhood, giving birth, sacred feminine, and womanhood mean to them. I find this to be a very powerful exercise, as it helps us to see what meanings we were given when we were younger, what we think of it now, and what we WANT to think of it.

Also, many women who may not be involved in spiritual exploration may want to give you very 'logical' advice and wisdom - by doing this exercise, we are encouraging them to look beyond "Take the pain medication if it's offered" as wisdom, to: what do you really want her to be thinking of during her birthing journey?



Beaded Necklace

Using gentle meditative techniques, I will lead everyone on a journey to consider what kind of birthing journey they WISHED they had. During this they will receive a word or symbol of wisdom which they then draw onto a wooden bead. All of those beads will then be threaded onto a string, becoming an item of beauty and sacred wisdom you can wear while you are birthing. I will also have other beads available, as sometimes we have more than one piece of wisdom to offer ;-)



Ochre Blessings

Adding water to ochre and then using it as a paste (non-toxic) we will paint or make marks on your body in blessing. This could look like 'Julie' drawing a line across your forehead saying, "I bless you with a clear mind on your birthing journey," or Daphne painting dots on the palms of your hands, saying: "May your hands hold your beautiful child with strength and love." In this way, the spoken blessings of your womenfolk are then embedded on your skin, and will be more easily remembered by you during the birthing when you need to access their strength.

Positive Affirmations

Together, your womenfolk create a mantra that can be used by us all during this ceremony, and can also be used by you during your birthing. I hold the space as we explore what words and images are powerful *to you*, and weave them together.

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Red Wool Bracelet

A reel of wool or thread is used to make a bracelet on the left wrist, tied by the woman on your left, and so on around the circle. As each bracelet is tied, you say: "From women we were born into this circle, from women we were born unto this earth." These bracelets are then worn until the birth, connecting everyone together. You can choose red wool for Blood, or blue wool for Motherhood, or any other colour with meaning behind it for you.

Cards of Wisdom

Often times, it's not so much *what* an oracle card is, but the meaning we *make* from the card! During this activity, we explore the wisdom we individually 'see' in the cards, and offer that to the mother-to-be. This can also be done by only the pregnant mother-to-be choosing cards.

Empowering Crystals

There may be a special crystal that you want to take into the birthing with you - during the ceremony would be the opportunity for your womenfolk to 'bless' the crystal, by passing it around the circle and holding it, feeling it, and willing into it.

Candle Blessing

Candles, as holders of fire, can be about strength, power and hope. It may be that at some point during your birthing you want to have something special 'in your pocket', ready to help you keep strong and keep going. This could be a candle that we have blessed during this ceremony, and which you light during the birthing when you feel you need Strength, Power and Hope.

Sharing Food & Drink

To finish, I will share a tradition called *cakes and ale*, which is simply the passing of food and then drink around the circle. Once this is done, I will 'close' the sacred space, so that all the feast food can then be warmed up and brought in, and we will finish the ceremony simply by eating together as women.



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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 Zoom/phone
- Zoom 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
- Art supplies & music
- The food/drink for *cakes & ale* only

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

