

## Bill No 9

Mover: Ms Jessica Hughes / Seconder: ...

### A Bill to Amend 'The Pastoral Liturgies – Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child,' 2024

#### Whereas:

- (a) The General Synod/Te Hīnota Whānui by Statute 690 in 2010 confirmed the repeal and replacement of a prayer for 'the handicapped' on page 463; and
- (b) There is a similar rubric in the Pastoral Liturgy 'Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child'; and
- (c) The Common Life Liturgical Commission, in partnership with the Disability Ministries Portfolio Group, wishes to repeal this rubric as unnecessary.

#### The General Synod/Te Hīnota Whānui enacts as follows:

1. **Title.** The Title of this Statute shall be *The Pastoral Liturgies – Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child Amendment Statute, 2024*.
2. **Purpose.** To repeal the rubric referring to a child born handicapped on page 756 of A New Zealand Prayer Book – He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa.
3. **The Pastoral Liturgies** are amended as follows:  
  
at the appropriate place on page 756, the rubric is amended by the deletion of the words "*for a child born handicapped*".
4. Clause 3 of this Statute is the adoption of a specific proposal in terms of Part B, Clause 6a of the Constitution/te Pouhere, and Section 4a of the Church of England Empowering Act 1928, and shall be made known to Te Rūnanganui o Te Pihopātanga o Aotearoa, the Synod of the Diocese of Polynesia, and the several Diocesan Synods in New Zealand.

#### Note

Page 756 currently reads in full:

*If only one parent of a child is present the above form may be used or the parent may say*

God our Creator,  
thank you for the waiting and the joy,  
thank you for new life and for parenthood,  
thank you for the gift of N,  
entrusted to my care.

May I be patient and understanding,  
ready to guide and forgive,  
that in my love *N* may know your love.  
May *s/he* learn to love your world  
and the whole family of your children;  
through Christ our life.

**Amen.**

*Or*

*The parents may use this thanksgiving for a child born handicapped.*

God the creator of us all,  
*we* give you thanks for the life of *this child*.  
Grant us accepting and understanding hearts,  
and the gifts of courage and patience to face the challenge  
of caring for *her/him*.

Let your love for us be seen in our lives,  
that we may create an atmosphere  
in which *s/he* will live a life of dignity and worth.  
*We* ask this in the name of Jesus, the compassionate.

**Amen.**

*The minister may say one of the above thanksgivings with, or on behalf of,  
the parents.*