

# The Irish Blessing

## CHURCH CHOIRS, SINGERS AND MUSICIANS

### AN INVITATION TO PARTICPATE IN...

### A 'VIRTUAL' BLESSING FOR FRONTLINE WORKERS

In recognition of the dedicated service of all involved in providing essential services during these challenging times, singers and musicians in churches on the island of Ireland are being invited to take part in a unique singing, musical and blessing experience.

At a local level, participants are asked to select a facility which provides an essential service and to dedicate their rendition of the specially adapted hymn: "Be Thou my Vision," to that facility.

**Project joint-co-ordinator, Fr. Martin Magill, Parish Priest, St. John the Evangelist, Belfast said:** *The words of the hymn 'Be Thou My Vision' can be traced back to fifth to ninth century Christian Ireland, to a tradition of a prayer for protection known as, 'lorica,' (Latin for armour or breastplate.) The references in the prayer to armour and sword are thought to be inspired by some of the imagery in St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, 6:16-17, such as 'shield of faith,' 'helmet of salvation,' and 'the sword of the Spirit.'* *Praying for protection and blessing is particularly apt during these times.*

**Fellow organiser, Philip McKinley, Dublin-based Church of Ireland Ordinand said:** *God blesses us abundantly and is present with us, even in very difficult times. This hymn invites us*

*to lift our eyes, to shift our vision far beyond ourselves, to Him. Ireland is famous for its blessing; words to encourage friends, family and neighbours along the journey. We want to bless those on the frontlines with words of hope and life and relationship with the Creator of all things. This is an exciting, collaborative, video-project, designed to bless our community and encourage people to lift their vision to the Lord. In the words of the hymn we want to draw people into a greater awareness of, 'thy presence, my light,' in these dark and challenging times.*

#### **PRACTICAL DETAILS:**

If you are interested in participating in this exciting project, please subscribe to our website:

<https://theishblessing.com/the-irish-blessing/sign-up/>

Once signed-up you will be notified this **Saturday 16th May** to download from <https://theishblessing.com>, our **Recording Guide Resources**, which will contain all the information you will need to record and submit your contribution.

**THE DEADLINE FOR RECORDED SUBMISSIONS IS 12 NOON ON FRIDAY 22ND MAY.**

Once submitted, your recording will be considered for inclusion in an all-island, collaborative version of the hymn. This final collaborative video will be directed and edited by a renowned team, including **Greg Fromholz, Stu Reid and Jonny Rea**, and will be released on our **YouTube Channel**, on **Pentecost Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> May at 11am.**

*Philip McKinley*

**Dublin**

*Martin Magill*

**Belfast**