

Wedding Booklet – New Version

A New Marriage Rite

(Please Stand)

Introduction

Celebrant: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

(Choose one of the following three options:)

A. Celebrant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

OR

B. Celebrant: The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

OR

C. Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Questions to the couple. *(Choose one of the following:)*

A. Celebrant: and, on this day of rejoicing you have invited us to this holy place, so that, gathered together with you, we may seek the blessing of God on your wedded love. The vows you offer one another today call you to a life-long partnership of mutual and self-giving love. And so, in the presence of this assembly of the Church, I ask you:

Celebrant: and, have you come here freely and without reservation to give yourselves to each other in marriage?

The couple answer: We have.

Celebrant: Will you love and honour each other as husband and wife for the rest of your lives?

The couple answer: We will.

Celebrant: Will you accept children lovingly from God and bring them up according to the gospel of Christ and his Church?

The couple answer: We will.

OR

B. Celebrant: and, the Church shares your joy today and welcomes you here most warmly together with your relatives and friends. On this day, in the presence of God our Father, you will establish with each other a partnership of life and love. Christ abundantly blesses

your love. He has already consecrated you in baptism and now he enriches and strengthens you by a special sacrament, so that, forsaking all others, you may live in mutual and lasting fidelity and take on the duties of married life. And so, in the presence of the Church, I ask you to state your intentions.

Celebrant: and, have you come here freely and without reservation to give yourselves to each other in marriage?

The couple answer: We have.

Celebrant: Will you love and honour each other as husband and wife for the rest of your lives?

The couple answer: We will.

Celebrant: Will you accept children lovingly from God and bring them up according to the gospel of Christ and his Church?

The couple answer: We will.

Celebrant asks the Parents of the Bride and Groom:

Celebrant: Will you continue to love and support and, and welcome their marriage to each other?

Parents: We will.

Celebrant asks all those present:

Celebrant: Will all of you do whatever you can to uphold and encourage the married love of and

All: We will.

Candle ceremony: (optional)

Celebrant: We use symbols to communicate many of our thoughts and feelings towards others. On a deeper religious level, Jesus used symbols and signs as visible ways of expressing invisible reality, namely, his saving presence in our midst.

Jesus frequently spoke of light and darkness to signify the Christian's commission to overcome the evil of the world, by the light of goodness.

In the wedding liturgy, candlelight symbolises the commitment of love and, are declaring today.

On the Altar are three special wedding candles. The two smaller ones symbolise the lives of and, Until today they have let the light they received in Baptism shine as individuals in the Christian community. Now they proclaim publicly their love in the new union of Marriage.

I invite both mothers (parents / bride and groom) to come up now and light their family candles.

Opening Prayer

A. Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, when you created the human race, you desired that man and woman should be one. Bind together with an inseparable love N. and N., who today pledge themselves to each other. Make their love fruitful, that they may be a sign of the love you bear for us all.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who loves and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.

All: Amen.

OR

B. Celebrant: Let us pray.

Father,

We thank you for bringing and together. Today you bind them ever more closely to each other. May they rely on your help to remain close through the best and worst of what lies ahead.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

OR

C. Celebrant: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father,

We thank you that in our earthly lives you speak to us of eternal life; we pray that through their marriage and may know you more clearly, love you more dearly and follow you more nearly, day by day.

You send your Holy Spirit to be the life of all your people. Open the hearts of these, your children, to the riches of Her Grace, that they may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love, joy and peace.

This we ask through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

OR

D. Celebrant: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father,

You have made the bond of marriage a holy mystery, a symbol of Christ's love for the Church. Hear our prayers for and With faith in you and in each other, they pledge their lives today. May their lives always bear witness to the reality of that love.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

(Please be seated)

First Reading

Responsorial Psalm – or song

Second Reading (Normally only one reading is done. Some couples may choose to have two readings)
(Please stand for the Gospel.)

Gospel (To be read by Celebrant.)
(Please be seated)

Homily by the Celebrant.

Consent:

Celebrant: and, in our presence you have stated your intention to enter marriage, and we have listened with you to the Word of the Lord. We recognise the saving mystery of God leading you to each other in love, and bringing your mutual love to the commitments of marriage. Therefore, join your right hands and declare your consent before God and in the presence of the Church.

(Choose one from the different types of consent or vows, other versions may also be considered.)**A.**
Bride and Groom join their right hands.

Bridegroom:, do you choose to be my wife?

Bride: I do. Do you,, choose to be my husband?

Bridegroom: I do. I take you as my wife and I give myself to you as your husband.

Bride: I take you as my husband and I give myself to you as your wife.

Together: to love and cherish, from this day forward; for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, all the days of our lives.

Celebrant: May the Lord graciously strengthen the consent you have declared before the Church and fill you both with blessings from above. What God has joined together, let no one put asunder.

OR

B. Bride and Groom join their right hands.

Bridegroom: I,, take you,, to be my wife. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honour you all the days of my life.

Bride: I,, take you,, to be my husband. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honour you all the days of my life.

Celebrant: May the Lord graciously strengthen the consent you have declared before the Church and fill you both with blessings from above. What God has joined together, let no one put asunder.

OR

C. Bride and Groom join their right hands.

Bridegroom: I,, in the presence of God, take you, to be my wife. All that I am I give to you, and all that I have I share with you. Whatever the future holds, I will always stand by you, for as long as we both shall live. I love you now and I will love you always.

Bride: I,, in the presence of God, take you, to be my husband. All that I am I give to you, and all that I have I share with you. Whatever the future holds, I will always stand by you, for as long as we both shall live. I love you now and I will love you always.

Celebrant: May the Lord graciously strengthen the consent you have declared before the Church and fill you both with blessings from above. What God has joined together, let no one put asunder.

OR

D. *Bride and Groom join their right hands.*

Bridegroom:, life has its toils, the good and the bad.
Today and eternally, I pledge to you that as your husband and best friend, I promise that I will always hold your hand through them.

For all my days I will forever be your strength, love you, be true to you, cherish you, be your happiness, and be part of your whole life, as well as of the eternal one, for death will never part us.

We will live eternally in each other and grow in love and strength, as nothing will ever separate us.
I make these promises to you now and forever.

Bride:, life has its toils, the good and the bad.
Today and eternally, I pledge to you that as your wife and best friend, I promise that I will always hold your hand through them.

For all my days I will forever be your strength, love you, be true to you, cherish you, be your happiness, and be part of your whole life, as well as of the eternal one, for death will never part us.

We will live eternally in each other and grow in love and strength, as nothing will ever separate us.
I make these promises to you now and forever.

Celebrant: May the Lord graciously strengthen the consent you have declared before the Church and fill you both with blessings from above. What God has joined together, let no one put asunder.

Nuptial Blessing (*One of the following blessings may be chosen.*)

A. *Celebrant:* Let us now invoke God's blessing on this bride and groom, whose love is enriched in the sacrament of marriage, that they may live securely under God's protection.

a. By your mighty power, Lord God, you have made all things from nothing; you have set the universe in order and created humankind in your own likeness. You have ordained that man and woman should be an inseparable help to each other, that they should no longer be two, but one flesh. By your joining them together, you have taught that no one may put asunder those you have made one in marriage.

OR

b. Lord God, in the covenant of Christian marriage you have transformed the union of man and woman into so wonderful a mystery that it signifies the mystical union between Christ and the Church.

OR

c. From the beginning, Lord God, you so joined together man and woman that their companionship was the one blessing not forfeited by original sin nor washed away by the flood.)

Look with favour upon these, your servants, now united as husband and wife, who ask the protection of your blessing: Pour out on them the grace of the Holy Spirit, that, with hearts infused with your love, they may remain faithful to the covenant they have made with each other.

Let the grace of your love and peace remain with, your daughter. Let her follow the example of those holy women whose praises are sung in the Scriptures. Let, your son, entrust his heart to her; let him acknowledge her as his equal and his co-heir to the life of grace. Let him cherish her with due honour and love her always with that love with which Christ loves his bride, the Church.

And now, Lord God, we pray for this couple: keep them united in faith and obedient to your commands. Keep them true to each other in body and blameless in all they do. Give them the strength which comes from the gospel, and make them witnesses of Christ to all they meet. (Bless them with children and make them wise and virtuous parents who will live to see their children's children.)

Grant them length of days together and bring them at last to fullness of life with the saints in heavenly glory.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

OR

B. Celebrant: As and begin their life together, let us ask the blessing of God on their marriage.

Holy God, from the beginning you created man and woman in your image. You gave them one to the other to banish loneliness; to make of two, one flesh, one mind, one heart; to be fruitful and faithful, and so they reflect the covenant of love you made with all creation. Confirm the love of and for each other; let it be a true image of your love, constant and kind.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Celebrant: Jesus Christ, your Son, let his glory be seen at a wedding feast, and made marriage a sign of the unbreakable bond of love he shares with all who believe. For the sake of that love, Jesus accepted death and from his death came life, the triumph of love. Draw and into the mystery of his dying and rising so that their sorrows, no less than their joys, their struggles, no less than their hopes, will become sources of abundant life.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Celebrant: Send your Holy Spirit upon and today. Fill them with gifts of tenderness, patience and good humour. Let their home be a place of welcome and a haven for those in need. Enrich their lives with children and steadfast friends. Draw them closely into the communion of your church so that they may praise and bless you, the living and true God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

OR

C. Celebrant: My dear friends, let us now ask a blessing on the love and marriage of and

Blessed are you, God of steadfast love and kindness, who created man and woman in your image and gave them as a gift and blessing to each other. May the pattern of their life together be woven into the garment of Christ's grace with which you first clothed and at their baptism. And so we pray:

All: May God bless them and keep them in their love for one another.

Celebrant: As Christ is faithful to his church, may and be faithful to the vows they have made to one another. May their mutual love be a seal upon their hearts which keeps their marriage covenant unbroken. And may the hands which and have joined together in this sacrament be a sign that they will hold each other closely in times of sorrow and joy. And so we pray:

All: May God bless them and keep them in their love for one another.

Celebrant: May the Holy Spirit rekindle every day the energy and passion of their love. May they receive the gift of wisdom that recognizes and serves the needs of one another's hearts and minds and bodies. Through this self-giving may and welcome the gift of children, and make their home a place of hospitality for all. And so we pray:

All: May God bless them and keep them in their love for one another.

Celebrant: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, may and reach old age surrounded by their children's children and dear and steadfast friends. We do not know when death will separate them for a little while, but bring them both, one day, to the marriage feast of your kingdom where, in communion with the saints, they will celebrate for all eternity their love for you and one another.

All: Amen.

OR

D. *Celebrant:* Let us pray that God will bless and, who have given themselves to each other in marriage.

We bless you, God, our beginning and our end. You give your Spirit to all living things, a gift that is sealed by a promise kept from one generation to the next.

On this day, we behold the love of and, who join their hands and their hearts in a joyful image of the self-giving love you bear for us all.

In the presence of such love we remember Jesus Christ, your faithful witness, who gave himself for us, even unto death.

Ever-living God, let the power of your Holy Spirit consecrate the marriage of and, (that they may love one another as Christ has loved us.)

Let their love bear the burden of trusting in times of fear, of forgiving in times of hurt, of hoping in times of trouble.

Let their love bear good fruit in love's delight (and the gift of children), in hospitality to family and friends, in concern for the poor and outcast.

Let their love bear witness to the promise they have made today, to the birth of a new creation, to your eternal embrace of all people in Jesus Christ.

Through whom be glory and praise to you, God, living and true, forever and ever.

All: Amen.

Blessing and Exchange of Rings (*One of the following blessings is chosen.*)

A. *Celebrant:* God of love, creator and sustainer of the human race, send + your Holy Spirit upon these rings, signs of the love between and, this day and for ever more.

All: Amen.

Bridegroom:, take and wear this ring, a sign of my love for you this day and for ever more. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Bride:, take and wear this ring, a sign of my love for you this day and for ever more. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

OR

B. Celebrant: Lord, bless these rings which we bless + in your name. Grant that those who wear them may always have a deep faith in each other. May they continue to enjoy your peace and goodwill and live together in love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Bridegroom:, take this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Bride:, take this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Candle ceremony (*Optional.*)

Celebrant: Now, following the profession of their vows, and, will light their wedding candle from the two family candles to symbolise a new reality. They do not lose their individuality, yet in marriage, they are united in so close a bond that they become one.

As two lights are now blended into one, so two lives are their lives. May you be one in name, one in aim and one in happy destiny together.

Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world. We praise you and ask you to guide our steps each day. Help and, to love you and to serve you.

Bless this candle and let it always remind them that you are their light in darkness, their protector in danger, and their saving Lord at all times.

Lord Jesus, we praise you and give you glory, for you are Lord for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

(*Please stand.*)

Prayer of the Faithful (*Please choose four prayers from the options provided below, or make up your own prayers.*)

Celebrant: My dear friends, we have witnessed and exchange their vows in the presence of the Lord. Let us now pray that God will bless them throughout their married life and keep them united in undivided love.

A. Reader: For and that their lives will be filled with joy and peace, that their love will go from strength to strength, and their deepest hopes on this day will come to fulfilment. Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

B. Reader: Lord help and to always remember the love they have grown to share and are sharing today. Help them work that love into practical things, so nothing can divide them.

Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

C. Reader: Lord, help and make a home together and grace it with friendship, laughter and love. May their friends and those in need, always be welcome.

Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

D. Reader: That and may pray together in joy and in sorrow, and always give thanks for the gift of each other.

Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

E. Reader: We pray that their love may be patient and gently ready to trust and endure whatever comes. That they will listen to Christ's gospel and pray together in their joy and sorrow, and always give thanks for the gift of each other.

Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

F. Reader: Lord make their love an expression of your creation, and bless and with children.

Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

G. Reader: Let us pray for their parents, who have given them life in the beginning, that they may receive God's abundant blessings for their love, care, concern and understanding.

Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

H. Reader: Lord, we pray for the members of our families, and friends who could not be with us today, those living and those separated from us through death. We know their thoughts and prayers are with us Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

I. Reader: Lord, we pray for peace on earth, may human kindness and love overcome people's greed and inhumanity Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Almighty God, you have come into the lives of and through the gift of married love, remain with them always, and show them your great love for those who call you their father.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

(Please be seated.)

Offertory Procession

(The gifts of bread and wine are brought up to the altar by the parents of the Bride and the Groom.)

Preparation of the Gifts

Celebrant: Pray dear friends that our sacrifice may be acceptable to the Lord the almighty father.

All: May the Lord accept this sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of God's name, for our good and for the good of all the Church.

(Please stand)

Prayer over the Gifts

Celebrant: Receive the offering of bread and wine and bless and, and enrich them in their joy. Grant that they may grow in their understanding and support of one another, so that their home may be to them a sanctuary in which they may be ever made new. Supply them with the resources they will need to meet the great responsibilities which will fall upon them and when they have to encounter times of hardship and trial, give them the wisdom, through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Preface

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant: Father, all powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks, through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Through Him you entered into a new covenant with your people. You restored us to grace in the saving mystery of redemption. You gave us a share in divine life through our union with Christ. You made us heirs of Christ's eternal glory.

This outpouring of love, the new covenant of grace is symbolised in the marriage covenant that seals the love of husband and wife and reflects your divine plan of love.

And so we join the angels and the saints in proclaiming your glory as we say:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

(Please kneel)

Celebrant: Lord, you are holy indeed, the fountain of all holiness. Let your Spirit come upon these gifts to make them holy, so that they may become for us the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Before he was given up to death, a death he freely accepted, he took bread and gave you thanks, He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take this, all of you, and eat it: this is my body which will be given up for you.

When supper was ended, he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks and praise, gave the cup to his disciples, and said: Take this, all of you, and drink from it: this is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

In memory of his death and resurrection, we offer you, Father, this life-giving bread, this saving cup. We thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. May all of us who share in the body and blood of Christ be brought together in unity by the Holy Spirit.

Lord, remember your Church throughout the world; make us grow in love, together withour Pope,our bishop, and all the clergy.

Remember our brothers and sisters who have gone to their rest in the hope of rising again; bring them and all the departed into the light of your presence. Have mercy on us all; make us worthy to share eternal life with Mary, the virgin Mother of God, with the apostles, and with all the saints who have done your will throughout the ages. May we praise you in union with them, and give you glory through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father forever and ever.

All: Amen.

(Please stand)

Communion Rite

Celebrant: Whatever denomination we may come from, whatever our religion may be, we are all children of our Father in Heaven. Together as brothers and sisters of one another, we can say the prayer Jesus taught us:

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those, who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Celebrant: Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day. In your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety, as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Sign of Peace

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles: "I leave you peace, my peace I give you". Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom, where you live for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Communion

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Celebrant: This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.

All: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

(During Communion the Bride and Groom and the guests are invited to share in the Body and Blood of Christ. This is a sacred moment and should be treated with respect.)

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant: Lord, in your love you have given us this Eucharist to unite us with one another and with you. As you made and one in the sacrament of marriage, so now make them one in love for each other and make us all one, so that we may proclaim your love to the world.

All: Amen.

Conclusion

Signing of the Civil Documents

(Please stand.)

Parental Prayer

Parents: and, may God who brings all love to birth and completion, bless and keep you all the days of your life.

All: Amen.

Parents: (..... and,) may God who has been with us in all our joys and sorrows, be ever faithful and strong for you.

All: Amen.

Parents: (..... and,) may God who calls you forth from us into this new union, make your love fruitful and forgiving.

All: Amen.

Parents: (..... and,) may God who created us for one another, give you hearts of hospitality for friend and stranger.

All: Amen.

Blessing

Celebrant: Bow your heads for God's blessing.

May God the eternal Father keep you in mutual love, that the peace of Christ may dwell always in your hearts and in your home.

All: Amen.

Celebrant: May your children be a blessing to you, and your friends a comfort, and may you live in peace with everyone.

(OR: May your friends be a comfort to you, and may you live in peace with everyone.)

All: Amen.

Celebrant: May you bear witness to God's love in this world, so that the poor and the suffering may find in you generous friends, and one day welcome you to an eternal home.

All: Amen.

Celebrant: And may almighty God bless you and all here present, the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.

(OR: And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit come upon you all and remain with you for ever.)

All: Amen.

Celebrant: Now that your marriage ceremony is over, the experience of living day by day as a married couple is about to begin. Go forth and meet it gladly. Love life so that life will love you.

Let us go in peace to love and serve the lord.

All: Thanks be to God.