

# Wedding Booklet – Old Version

## **OLD MARRIAGE RITE**

*(Please stand.)*

### **Introduction:**

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

*All:* Amen.

*Priest:* The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ who welcomes you to this celebration of love, and the gracious peace and joy of the Father, be always with you.

*All:* And also with you.

### **Penitential Rite:**

*Priest:* You reveal to us the Father's goodness and the greatness of God's love: Lord have mercy.

*All:* Lord, have mercy.

*Priest:* You sanctify family life by your presence and make it holy: Christ have mercy.

*All:* Christ have mercy.

*Priest:* You invite us to the heavenly wedding feast with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit: Lord have mercy.

*All:* Lord have mercy.

*Priest:* May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

*All:* Amen.

### **Candle ceremony Part One: (optional)**

*Priest:* 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 to come up now and light their family candles.

### **Opening prayer: (Choose one of the following options.)**

**A:**

*Priest:* 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**

**B:**

*Priest: 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**

**C:**

*Priest: 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** *(Optional. Normally only one reading is done. Some couples may choose to have two readings. (Please stand.)*

**Alleluia**

**Gospel** *(To be read by priest.)*

*(Please be seated.)*

**Homily** (*The Priest delivers a reflection based on the readings.*)

**The Marriage ceremony:**

*Priest:* ..... and ..... the promise you make to each other today is serious, because it will bind you together for life in a relationship so close and so intimate that it will profoundly influence your whole future.

The future, with its successes and failures, its pleasures and its pains, its joys and its sorrows, is hidden from your eyes. You know that these elements are mingled in every life and are to be expected in your own too. And so, not knowing what is before you, but trusting in God's companionship, you take each other through the best and worst of what lies ahead, until death. Join your hands, and commit yourselves to each other forever.

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

*Together:* We have.

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

*Together:* We will.

*Priest:* Will you accept children lovingly from God and bring them up according to God's law?

*Together:* We will.

**Consent:** (*Choose one of the following options.*)

*Priest:* Since it is your intention to enter into marriage, join your right hands together, and declare your consent before God and the Church.

**A:**

*Groom:* 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.

*Priest:* You have declared your consent before the Church. May God, in God's goodness, strengthen your consent and fill you both with God's blessings.

What God has joined, no one must divide.

In the name of God and by the power vested in me by the Commonwealth of Australia, I now declare you Husband and wife.

**OR**

**B:**

*Groom:* 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.

*Priest:* You have declared your consent before the Church. May God, in God's goodness, strengthen your consent and fill you both with God's blessings.

What God has joined, no one must divide.

In the name of God and by the power vested in me by the Commonwealth of Australia, I now declare you Husband and wife.

**OR**

**C:**

*Groom:* ....., 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.

*Priest:* You have declared your consent before the Church. May God, in God's goodness, strengthen your consent and fill you both with God's blessings.

What God has joined, no one must divide.

In the name of God and by the power vested in me by the Commonwealth of Australia, I now declare you Husband and wife.

**Blessing and exchange of rings:**

*Priest:* This endless band tell of your promise of undying love. This gold tells of the strength and purity of your desire to be husband and wife. Wear them as a sign of your love for each other.

*Groom:* ....., wear this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity. In the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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

**Candle Ceremony Part Two: (optional.)**

*Priest:* 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.)*

**Prayers of the Faithful:** *(Please choose four.)*

*Priest:* 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.

*1. 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.

*2. 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.

*3. 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.

*4. 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.

*5. 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.

6. *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.

7. *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.

8. *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.

9. *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.

*Priest:* 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.

**Offertory Procession** (Gifts 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.

### **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.

*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 with .....our 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.

### **Communion Rite and Marriage Blessing**

*Priest:* 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.

(For the kingdom, the power and glory are yours, now and forever.)

*Priest:* Let us pray for ..... and ..... who have come to God's altar at the beginning of their married life, that they may always be united in love for each other.

God our Father, creator of the universe, maker of man and woman in your own likeness, source of blessing for married life, we humbly pray to you for ..... and ..... who today are united as husband and wife in this sacrament of marriage.

May your fullest blessing come upon them so that they may together rejoice in your gift to married love and enrich your Church with children.

Lord, may they praise you when they are happy and turn to you in their sorrow.

May they be glad that you help them in their work and know that you are with them in the community of the Church, and be your witnesses in the world. May they reach old age in the company of their friends.

Father grant that as they come together to your table on earth, so they may one day have the joy of sharing your feast in heaven.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.



*All:* Amen.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Final Blessing**

*Priest:* May each day's dawning give you courage and each evening's ending bring you peace, and the love of God be with you forever and ever.

*All:* Amen.

*Priest:* May you be one in name, one in happy destiny and one in eternal life, with God the Father, forever and ever.

*All:* Amen.

*Priest:* May Jesus, who was present at the wedding feast in Cana and in the Holy Family, be always present in your home, so that your home may truly be a place of love and harmony forever and ever.

*All:* Amen.

*Priest:* And may Almighty God bless you: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

*All:* Amen.

*Priest.* 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.

After the signing of the register, let us go in peace to love and serve the lord.

*All:* Thanks be to God.

*(Please be seated while the couple signs the register.)*