

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

**Priest:** Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy all our days. May the goodness of the Lord be upon us, and give success to the work of our hands.

**Or**

Lord, I will bless you day after day, and praise your name for ever; for you are kind to all, and compassionate to all your creatures.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** **Amen**

*The priest will use one of the following greetings*

**Priest:** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**All:** **And with your spirit**

**Or**

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

**All:** **And with your spirit**

## PENITENTIAL RITE

**Priest:** Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

Have mercy on us, O Lord.

**All:** **For we have sinned against you.**

**Priest:** Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

**All:** **And grant us your salvation.**

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

**All:** **Amen.**

**Priest:** Lord have mercy

**All:** **Lord have mercy**

**Priest:** Christ have mercy

**All:** **Christ have mercy**

**Priest:** Lord have mercy

**All:** **Lord have mercy**

**Or**

**Priest:** Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins,  
and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred  
mysteries.

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:  
Lord, have mercy.

**All:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**Priest:** You came to call sinners:  
Christ, have mercy.

**All:** **Christ, have mercy.**

**Priest:** You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us:  
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.**

### **Opening Prayer:**

**Priest:** Let us pray  
Father, you have made the bond of marriage a holy mystery, a symbol of Christ's love  
for his Church. Hear our prayers for N. and N. With faith in you and in each other they  
pledge their love 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.**

**Or**

**Priest:** Let us pray  
Father, when you created humankind you willed that man and wife should be one.  
Bind N. and N. in the loving union of marriage and make their love fruitful so that they  
may be living witnesses to your divine love in the world.  
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**

**Priest:** Let us pray  
Almighty God, hear our prayers for N. and N. who have come here today to be united  
in the sacrament of marriage.

Increase their faith in you and in each other and through them bless your Church (with Christian children).

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**

**Priest:** Let us pray  
Father, hear our prayers for N. and N. who today are united in marriage before your altar. Give them your blessing and strengthen their love for each other.  
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.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD



*Please choose one Old Testament reading, one psalm, one New Testament reading, one Gospel Acclamation & one Gospel Reading from the following readings.*

### OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

**A Reading from the Book of Genesis**  
1: 26—28. 31.

*Male and female He created them.*

God said, 'Let us make people in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves, and let them be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven, the cattle, all the wild beasts and all the reptiles that crawl upon the earth'.

“God created people in the image of Himself, in the image of God He created them, male and female He created them.

God blessed them, saying to them, 'Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and conquer it.' Be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven and all living animals on the earth.' God saw all He had made, and indeed it was very good.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**All:** Thanks be to God

**Or**

**A Reading from the book of Genesis**

**2: 18-24**

*They become one body.*

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These He brought to the man to see what he would call them; each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts.

But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, He took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib

He had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed: 'This at last is bone from my bones, and flesh from my flesh!

This is to be called woman, for this was taken from man.'

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Or**

**A Reading from the book of Genesis**

**24: 48 – 51. 58-67**

*Isaac loved Rebekah and so he was consoled for the loss of his mother.*

Abraham's servant said to Laban, 'I blessed the Lord, God of my master Abraham, who had so graciously led me to choose the daughter of my master's brother for his son. Now tell me whether you are prepared to show kindness and goodness to my master; if not, say so, and I shall know what to do.'

Laban and Bethuel replied, 'This is from the Lord; it is not in our power to say yes or no to you. Rebekah is there before you. Take her and go; and let her become the wife of your master's son, as the Lord has decreed.'

They called Rebekah and asked her, 'Do you want to leave with this man?' 'I do,' she replied. Accordingly they let their sister Rebekah go, with her nurse, and Abraham's servant and his men. They blessed Rebekah in these words:

'Sister of ours, increase to thousands and tens of thousands!

May your descendants gain possession of the gates of their enemies!'

Rebekah and her servants stood up, mounted the camels, and

followed the man. The servant took Rebekah and departed. Isaac, who lived in the Negeb, had meanwhile come into the wilderness of the well of Lahai Roi. Now Isaac went walking in the fields as evening fell, and looking up saw camels approaching. And Rebekah looked up and saw Isaac. She jumped down from her camel, and asked the servant, 'Who is that man walking through the fields to meet us?' The servant replied, 'That is my master'; then she took her veil and hid her face. The servant told Isaac the whole story, and Isaac led Rebekah into his tent and made her his wife; and he loved her. And so Isaac was consoled for the loss of his mother.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Or**

**A Reading from the book of Tobit**

**7: 9-14**

*The Lord grant you his grace and peace.*

Raguel and his guests sat down to table. Then Tobias said to Raphael, ‘Brother Azarias, will you ask Raguel to give me my sister Sarah?’ Raguel overheard the words, and said to the young man, ‘Eat and drink, and make the most of your evening; no one else has the right to take my daughter Sarah - no one but you, my brother. Eat and drink; the Lord will grant you his grace and peace.’

Tobias spoke out, ‘I will not hear of eating and drinking till you have come to a decision about me’. Raguel answered, ‘Very well. Since, as prescribed by the Book of Moses, she is given to you, heaven itself decrees she shall be yours. I therefore entrust your sister to you.

From now you are her brother and she is your sister. She is given to you from today for ever. The Lord of heaven favour you tonight, my child, and grant you his grace and peace.’ Raguel called for his daughter Sarah, took her by the hand and gave her to Tobias with these words, ‘I entrust her to you; the law and the ruling recorded in the Book of Moses assign her to you as your wife. Take her; take her home to your father’s house with a good conscience. The God of heaven grant you a good journey in peace.’ Then he turned to her mother and asked her to fetch him writing paper. He drew up the marriage contract, how he gave his daughter as bride to Tobias according to the ordinance in the Law of Moses.

After this they began to eat and drink.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Or**

**A Reading from the book of Tobit**

**8: 4 - 8**

*Bring us to old age together*

Tobias said to Sarah, ‘You and I must pray and petition our Lord to win his grace and His protection.’ She stood up, and they began praying for protection, and this was how he began:

‘You are blessed, O God of our fathers;

blessed, too, is your name for ever and ever.

Let the heavens bless you and all things you have made for evermore.

It was you who created Adam,

you who created Eve his wife to be his help and support;

and from these two the human race was born.

It was you who said,

“It is not good that the man should be alone;

let us make him a helpmate like himself”.

And so I do not take my sister for any lustful motive;

I do it in singleness of heart.

Be kind enough to have pity on her and on me and bring us to old age together.’

And together they said, ‘Amen, Amen’.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Or**

**A Reading from the Song of Songs**

**2: 8 - 10. 14. 16; 8: 6 -7**

*Love is strong as death.*

**I hear my Beloved.  
See how he comes leaping on the mountains, bounding over the hills.  
My Beloved is like a gazelle, like a young stag.  
See where he stands behind our wall.  
He looks in at the window, he peers through the lattice.  
My Beloved lifts up his voice, he says to me,  
'Come then, my love, 'my lovely one, come.  
My dove, hiding in the clefts of the rock, in the coverts of the cliff,  
show me your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet  
and your face is beautiful.'  
My beloved-is mine and I am his.  
Set me like a seal on your heart,  
For love is strong as death, jealousy relentless as Sheol.  
The flash of it is a flash of fire, a flame of the Lord himself.  
Love no flood can quench, no torrents drown.**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Or**

**A Reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus**

**26: 1 - 4. 13 - 16**

*Like the sun rising is the beauty of a good wife in a well-kept house.*

**Happy the husband of a really good wife;  
the number of his days will be doubled.  
A perfect wife is the joy of her husband,  
he will live out the years of his life in peace.  
A good wife is the best of portions,  
reserved for those who fear the Lord;  
rich or poor, they will be glad of heart,  
cheerful of face, whatever the season.  
The grace of a wife will charm her husband,  
her accomplishments will make him the stronger.  
A silent wife is a gift from the Lord,  
no price can be put on a well-trained character.  
A modest wife is a boon twice over,  
a chaste character cannot be weighed on scales.  
Like the sun rising over the mountains of the Lord  
is the beauty of a good wife in a well-kept house.**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Or**

**A Reading from the prophet Jeremiah**

31: 31 - 34

*I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah.*

See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt.

No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive - it is the Lord who speaks.

Deep within them will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest - it is the Lord who speaks.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**All: Thanks be to God**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALMS**

*The psalm is usually sung  
If not choose one of the following*

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps. 32 : 12. 18. 20 - 22

**The response is: *The Lord fills the earth with his love!***

**They are happy, whose God is the Lord  
the people He has chosen as his own.  
The Lord looks on those who revere Him  
on those who hope in His love. (R)**

**Our soul is waiting for the Lord.  
The Lord is our help and our shield.  
In Him do our hearts find joy.  
We trust in His holy name. (R)**

**May your love be upon us, O Lord,  
as we place all our hope in you. (R)**

**Or**

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 33: 2– 9.

**Response:** *I will bless the Lord at all times*  
**Alternative Response:** *Taste and see that the Lord is good*

**I will bless the Lord at all times,  
His praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad. (R)**

**Glorify the Lord with me.  
Together let us praise His name.  
I sought the Lord and He answered me;  
from all my terrors He set me free. (R.)**

**Look towards Him and be radiant;  
let your faces not be abashed.  
This poor man called; the Lord heard him  
and rescued him from all his distress. (R.)**

**The angel of the Lord is encamped  
around those who revere him, to rescue them.  
Taste and see that the Lord is good.  
He is happy who seeks refuge in Him.**

**Or**

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps. 102: 1– 2. 8. 13. 17 - 18.

**Response:** *The Lord is compassion and love*  
**Alternative Response:** *The love of the Lord is everlasting upon those who hold him in fear.*

**My soul, give thanks to the Lord,  
all my being, bless His holy name.  
My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all His blessings. (R)**

**The Lord is compassion and love,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
As a father has compassion on His sons,  
the Lord has pity on those who fear Him. (R)**

**The love of the Lord is everlasting  
upon those who hold Him in fear;  
His justice reaches out to children's children  
when they keep His covenant in truth. (R)**

**Or**



**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps: 111: 1 – 9

**Response:**        *Happy those who takes delight in the Lord's commands.*

**Alternative Response:** *Alleluia*

**Happy the man who fears the Lord,  
who takes delight in His commands.  
His sons will be powerful on earth;  
the children of the upright are blessed. (R.)**

**Riches and wealth are in his house;  
His justice stands firm for ever.  
He is a light in the darkness for the upright:  
He is generous, merciful and just. (R)**

**The love of the Lord is everlasting '  
He conducts his affairs with honour.  
The just man will never waver:  
He will be remembered for ever. (R)**

**He has no fear of evil news;  
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.  
With a steadfast heart he will not fear;  
He will see the downfall of his foes. (R)**

**Open-handed, he gives to the poor;  
His justice stands firm for ever,  
His head will be raised in glory. (R)**

**Or**

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 127: 1 - 5

**Response:**        *O blessed are those who fear the Lord!*

**Alternative Response:** *Indeed thus shall be blessed the person who fears the Lord.*

**O blessed are those who fear the Lord  
and walk in His ways!  
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.  
You will be happy and prosper.(R.)**

**Your wife will be like a fruitful vine  
in the heart of your house;  
your children like shoots of the olive,  
around your table. (R)**

**Indeed thus shall be blessed  
the person who fears the Lord.  
May the Lord bless you from Zion  
all the days of your life! (R)**

**Or**

**Responsorial Psalm**  
Ps 144:8 -10. 15. 17-18.

**Response:** *How good is the Lord to all.*

**The Lord is kind and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.  
How good is the Lord to all,  
compassionate to all His creatures. (R-)**

**All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,  
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.  
The eyes of all creatures look to you  
and you give them their food in due time. (R)**

**The Lord is just in all his ways  
and loving in all His deeds.  
He is close to all who call Him,  
Who call on Him from their hearts. (R)**

**Or**

**Responsorial Psalm**  
Ps 148: 1 - 4, 9 - 14.

**Response:** Let them praise the name of the Lord.

**Alternative Response:** Alleluia!

**Alleluia!  
Praise the Lord from the heavens,  
praise Him in the heights.  
Praise Him, all His angels,  
praise Him, all His host. (R)**

**Praise Him, sun and moon,  
Praise Him, shining stars.  
Praise Him, highest heavens  
and the waters above the heavens. (R)**

**All mountains and hills,  
all fruit trees and cedars,  
beasts, wild and tame,  
reptiles and birds on the wing. (R)**

**All earth's kings and peoples,  
earth's princes and rulers;  
young men and maidens,  
old men together with children. (R)**

**Let them praise the name of the Lord  
for He alone is exalted.  
The splendour of His name  
reaches beyond heaven and earth. (R.)**

## NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

A Reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

8: 31 - 35, 37 - 39

*Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ*

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that He will not refuse anything He can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us - He rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand He stands and pleads for us.

Nothing therefore can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of Him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Or

A Reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

12:1 - 2,9-18

*Offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God.*

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship Him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

Do not let your love be a pretence, but sincerely prefer good to evil. Love each other as much as brothers should, and have a profound respect for each other. Work for the Lord with untiring effort and with great earnestness of spirit. If you have hope, this will make you cheerful. Do not give up if trials come; and keep on praying. If any of the saints are in need you must share with them; and you should make hospitality your special care.\*

*(You can use from beginning to \* as a shorter version)*

Bless those who persecute you: never curse them, bless them. Rejoice with those who rejoice and be sad with those in sorrow.

Treat everyone with equal kindness; never be condescending but make real friends with the poor. Do not allow yourself to become self-satisfied. Never repay evil with evil but let everyone see that you are interested only in the highest ideals. Do all you can to live at peace with everyone.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Or

**A Reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians**

6: 13 - 15, 17 - 20

*Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.*

**The body - this is not meant for fornication; it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God, who raised the Lord from the dead, will by His power raise us up too.**

**You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ. But anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.**

**Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you since you received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Or**

**A Reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians**

12; 31-13 ; 8.

*If I am without love, it will do me no good whatever.*

**Be ambitious for the higher gifts. And I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them.**

**If I have all the eloquence of people or of angels, but speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are, and knowing everything and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all. If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece, and if I even let them take my body to burn it, but am without love, it will do me no good whatever. Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful.**

**Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.**

**Love does not come to an end.**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Or**

**A Reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians**

5: 2. 21 - 33

*This mystery has many implications: but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church*

**\*Follow Christ by loving as He loved you, giving Himself up in our place. Give way to one another in obedience to Christ.\* Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife, and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. \*Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body - and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church. To sum up; you too, each one of you, must love his wife as he loves himself; and let every wife respect her husband.\***

*(The text between \* and \* can be used as a shorter form of this reading)*

**The Word of the Lord.**

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**A Reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians**

3: 12 - 17

*Over all these, to keep them together and complete them, put on love.*

**You are God's chosen race, His saints; He loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.**

**Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Or**

**A Reading from the letter of St. Peter**

**3: 1 - 9**

*You should all agree among yourselves and be sympathetic: love the brothers.*

**Wives should be obedient to their husbands. Then, if there are some husbands who have not yet obeyed the word, they may find themselves won over, without a word spoken, by the way their wives behave, when they see how faithful and conscientious they are. Do not dress up for show: doing up your hair, wearing gold bracelets and fine clothes; all this should be inside, in a person's heart, imperishable: the ornament of a sweet and gentle disposition - this is what is precious in the sight of God. That was how the holy women of the past dressed themselves attractively - they hoped in God and were tender and obedient to their husbands; like Sarah, who was obedient to Abraham, and called him her lord.**

**You are now her children, as long as you live good lives and do not give way to fear or worry. In the same way, husbands must always treat their wives with consideration in their life together, respecting a woman as one who, though she may be the weaker partner, is equally an heir to the life of grace. This will stop anything from coming in the way of your prayers. Finally: you should all agree among yourselves and be sympathetic; love the brothers, have compassion and be self-effacing. Never pay back one wrong with another one; instead, pay back with a blessing. That is what you are called to do, so that you inherit a blessing yourself.**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Or**

**A Reading from the first letter of St John**

**3: 18 - 24**

*Our love is to be something real and active.*

**My children,  
our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active;  
only by this can we be certain that we are children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and He knows everything.**

**My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask Him, we shall receive, because we keep His commandments and live the kind of life that He wants.**

**His commandments are these:**

**that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as He told us to.**

**Whoever keeps His commandments lives in God and God lives in Him. We know that He lives in us by the Spirit that He has given us.**

**The Word of the Lord**

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Or**

**A Reading from the letter of St. John**

4: 7 - 12

*God is love*

**My dear people,**

**let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.**

**Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love.**

**God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world His only Son so that we could have life through Him;**

**this is the love I mean:**

**not our love for God, but God's love for us when He sent His Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away;**

**My dear people,**

**since God has loved us so much, we too should love one another.**

**No one has ever seen God; but as long as we love one another**

**God will live in us and His love will be complete in us.**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Or**

**A Reading from the book of the Apocalypse**

19: 1, 5 - 9

*Happy are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.*

**I, John, seemed to hear the great sound of a huge crowd in heaven, singing, 'Alleluia! Victory and glory and power to our God!'**

**Then a voice came from the throne; it said, 'Praise our God, you servants of His and all who, great or small, revere Him'. And I seemed to hear the voices of a huge crowd, like the sound of the ocean or the great roar of thunder, answering, 'Alleluia! The reign of the Lord our God Almighty has begun; let us be glad and joyful and give praise to God, because this is the time for the marriage of the Lamb. His bride is ready, and she has been able to dress herself in dazzling white linen, because her linen is made of the good deeds of the saints.' The angel said, 'Write this: Happy are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb'.**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATIONS**

**The acclamation is usually sung (choose one!)**

*All Stand*

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**God is love; let us love one another**

**As God has loved us.**

**Alleluia!**

**Or**

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**  
**As long as we love one another God will live in us,**  
**and his love will be complete in us.**  
**Alleluia!**

**Or**

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**  
**Anyone who lives in love lives in God,**  
**and God lives in him.**  
**Alleluia!**

**Or**

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**  
**Everyone who loves is begotten by God,**  
**and knows God.**  
**Alleluia!**

## **GOSPEL READINGS**

**A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**  
**5: 1 - 12**

***Rejoice and be glad, your reward will be great in heaven.***

**Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There He sat down and was joined by His disciples.**

**Then He began to speak. This is what He taught them:**

**‘How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage.**

**Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted.**

**Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:**  
**they shall be satisfied.**

**Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.**

**Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God.**

**Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God.**

**Happy those Who are persecuted in the cause of right:**  
**theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**‘Happy are you When people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny**  
**against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.’**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Or**



**A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

**5: 13 - 16**

***You are the light of the world***

**Jesus said to his disciples: ‘You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by people.**

**‘You are the light of the world. A city built on a hilltop cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of people, so that, seeing you good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.’**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Or**

**A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

**7 : 21. 24-29**

***He built his house on rock.***

**\*Jesus said to his disciples:**

**‘It is not those who say to me, “Lord, Lord”, who will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the person who does the will of my Father in heaven.**

**‘Therefore, everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a sensible man who built his house on rock. Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew and hurled themselves against the house, and it did not fall: it was founded on rock.\* But everyone who listens to these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a stupid man who built his house on sand. Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew and struck that house, and it fell; and what a fall it had !**

**Jesus had now finished what He wanted to say, and His teaching made a deep impression on the people because He taught them with authority, and not like their own scribes.**

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

***(The text between \* and \* can be used as a shorter version of this Gospel.)***

**Or**

**A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

**19: 3 - 6**

***What God has united, people must not divide.***

**Some Pharisees approached Jesus, and to test Him they said, ‘Is it against the Law for a man to divorce his wife on any pretext whatever?’ He answered, ‘Have you not read that the creator from the beginning made them male and female and that He said: This is why a man must leave father and mother, and cling to his wife, and the two become one body? They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, people must not divide.’**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Or**

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
22: 35 - 40

*This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it.*

A lawyer, to disconcert Jesus, put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Or

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark  
10: 6 - 9

*They are no longer two but one body.*

Jesus said, 'From the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, people must not divide.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Or

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
2: 1 - 11

*This was the first of the signs given by Jesus - at Cana in Galilee*

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and His disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine'. Jesus said, 'Woman, why turn to me? My hour has not come yet.'

His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever He tells you'. There were six stone water jars standing there meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews: each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water', and they filled them to the brim. 'Draw some out now,' He told them, 'and take it to the steward.' They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine.

Having no idea where it came from - only the servants who had drawn the water knew - the steward called the bridegroom and said, 'People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink; but you have kept the best wine till now'.

This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let His glory be seen, and His disciples believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Or

**A Reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
15: 12 - 16**

*What I command you is to love one another*

**Jesus said to his disciples:**

**‘This is my commandment:**

**love one another, as I have loved you.**

**A man can have no greater love  
than to lay down His life for His friends.**

**You are my friends, if you do what I command you.**

**I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master’s business;  
I call you friends, because I have made known to you  
everything I have learnt from my Father.**

**You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you  
to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you, anything you  
ask Him in my name.’**

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Or**

**A Reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
17: 20 - 26**

*May they be completely one.*

**\*Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:**

**‘Holy Father,**

**I pray not only for these, but for those also who through their words will believe in me.**

**May they all be one.**

**Father, ‘ may they be one in us, as you are in me and I am in you, so that the world may believe  
it was you who sent me.**

**I have given them the glory you gave to me, that they may be one as we are one.**

**With me in them and you in me, may they be so completely one that the world will realise that  
it was you who sent me and that I have loved them as much as you loved me.\***

**Father,**

**I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, so that they may always see the  
glory you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.**

**Father, Righteous One, the world has not known you, but I have known you, and these have  
known that you have sent me.**

**I have made your name known to them and will continue to make it known, so that the love  
with which you loved me may be in them,  
and so that I may be in them.’**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*(The text between \* and \* can be used as a shorter version of this Gospel.)*

# RITE OF MARRIAGE

## Addresses

### First Form

**Priest:** Dear Children of God, (or Dear N. and N.)  
You have come today to pledge your love before God and before the Church here present in the person of the priest, your families and friends.

In becoming husband and wife you give yourselves to each other for life. You promise to be true and faithful, to support and cherish each other until death, so that your years together will be the living out in love of the pledge you now make.

May your love for each other reflect the enduring love of Christ for his Church. As you face the future together, keep in mind that the sacrament of marriage unites you with Christ and brings you, through the years, the grace and blessing of God our Father. Marriage is from God: He alone can give you the happiness which goes beyond human expectation and which grows deeper through the difficulties and struggles of life.

Put your trust in God as you set out together in life. Make your home a centre of Christian family life. (In this you will bequeath to your children a heritage more lasting than temporal wealth.)

The Christian home makes Christ and his Church present in the world of everyday things. May all who enter your home find there the presence of the Lord; for He has said: where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.'

Now, as you are about to exchange your marriage vows the Church wishes to be assured that you appreciate the meaning of what you do, and so I ask you: Have you come here of your own free will and choice to marry each other?

**Couple:** *We have.*

**Priest:** Will you love and honour each other in marriage all the days of your life?

**Couple:** *We will.*

**Priest:** Are you willing to accept with love the children God may send you, and bring them up in accordance with the law of Christ, and His Church?

**Couple:** *We are.*

### Second Form

**Priest:** Dear Children of God, (Dear N. and N.)  
You have come to this Church so that the Lord may seal your love in the presence of the priest and this community.

Christian marriage is a sacred union which enriches natural love. It binds those who enter it to be faithful to each other for ever; it creates between them a bond that endures for life and cannot be broken; it demands that they love and honour each other (\*and that they accept from God the children he may give them, and bring them up in his love). **\*May be omitted**

To help them in their marriage the husband and wife  
Receive the life-long grace of the sacrament.

Is this your understanding of marriage?

**Couple:** It is.

## DECLARATION OF CONSENT

### First Form

**Priest:** I invite you then to declare before God and His Church your consent to become husband and wife.

**Groom:** N., do you consent to be my wife?

**Bride:** I do. Do you, N., consent to be my husband?

**Groom:** 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.

*They then join hands and say together:*

To love each other truly  
For better, for worse,  
For richer, for poorer,  
In sickness and in health,  
Till death do us part. (or all the days of our life.)

*When the bride and groom have given their consent the priest says:*

**Priest:** What God joins together no one should separate.  
May the Lord confirm the consent that you have given and enrich you with His blessings.

### Second Form

**Priest:** I invite you then to declare before God and his Church your consent to become husband and wife.

*The couple join hands.*

**Groom:** I, N., take you, N., as my wife,  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
till death do us part. (or all the days of our life.)

**Bride:** I, N., take you, N., as my husband  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
till death do us part. (or all the days of our life.)

*When the bride and groom have given their consent the priest says:*

**Priest:** What God joins together no one should separate.  
May the Lord confirm the consent that you have given and enrich you with His blessings.

### **Third Form**

**Priest:** I invite you then to declare before God and His Church your consent to become husband and wife.

*They join hands. The priest then asks the groom:*

**Priest:** N., do you take N. as your wife,  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
till death do you part (or all the rest of your life)?

**Groom:** I do.

*The priest then asks the bride.*

**Priest:** N., do you take N. as your husband,  
for better, for worse  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health  
till death do you part (or all the rest of your life)?

**Bride:** I do.

**Priest:** What God joins together no one should separate.  
May the Lord confirm the consent that you have given and enrich you with His blessings.

### **Fourth Form**

**Priest:** I invite you then to declare before God and His Church your decision to become husband and wife.

**Groom:** N., do you consent to be my wife?

**Bride:** I do.

**Bride:** N., do you consent to be my husband?

**Groom:** I do.

*They join hands and say together:*

**Couple:** We take each other as husband and wife and promise to love each other truly,  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
till death do us part. (or all the days of our life.)

**Priest:** The Lord has joined you together. May He fulfil His blessing in you; may He keep you in His love.

### **Fifth Form**

**Priest:** I invite you then to declare before God and His Church your consent to become husband and wife.

*They join hands.*

**Groom:** I, N., take you, N., as my wife,  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health.  
I will love and cherish you  
all the days of my life.

**Bride:** I, N., take you, N., as my husband,  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health.  
I will love and cherish you  
all the days of my life.

**Priest:** You have declared your consent before the Church. May the Lord in His goodness strengthen your consent and fill you both with His blessing.

### **BLESSING OF RINGS**

#### **First Form**

**Priest:** Lord, bless N. and N. and consecrate their married life.  
May this ring (these rings) be a symbol of their faith in each other and a reminder of their love.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Couple:** Amen.

#### **Second Form**

**Priest:** May the Lord bless this ring (these rings) which will be the sign of your love and fidelity

**Couple:** Amen.

#### **Third Form**

**Priest:** Lord, bless these rings.  
Grant that those who wear them may always be faithful to each other.  
May they do your will and live in peace with you in mutual love.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Couple:** Amen.

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

*These sample prayers may help you as you prepare your own*

### Sample 1.

**Priest:** *Let us turn to God and ask Him to look with love and kindness on N. and N. on this day of their marriage, and to provide them and all married couples with the help and support they need to live out their marriage vows.*

**Reader:** The Lord Jesus is present to N. and N. in this Sacrament of Matrimony. We pray that He will continue to make His presence felt throughout their lives.

Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord, graciously hear us.

**Reader:** We pray for N. and N. as they begin their married life. May they grow in their love for each other and be blessed with happiness that will remain with them always.

Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord, graciously hear us.

**Reader:** We pray for the families of N. and N. who by their love and example have always been a great source of inspiration and support to them. We ask God to bless them and keep them always in His care.

Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord, graciously hear us.

**Reader:** Friends are so important to us all. We pray today for N. and N.'s friends who have shared their joys and encouraged them in their love for each other. We thank God for their friendship and support.

Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord, graciously hear us.

**Reader:** We pray that all married couples here today. May they be reminded of the joy of their wedding day. May they give thanks for all the happiness they have known. May each day find them ever more devoted to each other.

Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord, graciously hear us.

**Reader:** For all who have come to celebrate this special day with N. and N. We pray especially for those who have travelled from abroad to share this special time with us. May the Lord continue to bless their lives and may their time with us be one of great joy and renewal of friendships.

Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord, graciously hear us.

**Reader:** We pray today for all our deceased relatives and friends. May they be united with us in the communion of saints and may they continually ask the Lord to bless N. and N.

Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord, graciously hear us.

**Priest:** *We ask for God's blessing on N. and N's life together. May they always remember that marriage is a caring and sharing, a giving and forgiving, a loving and being*



*loved, a walking hand in hand and talking heart to heart, always trusting and believing and thanking God for His courage to support them and His love to unite them, now and forever.*

**All:** *Amen.*

## **Sample 2.**

**Priest:** *God has given us the promise of fidelity and love in the Word of Scripture. N. and N. have given their promise of life-long faithful love in the Sacrament of Marriage. This hour of promise is also a time of prayer. So with confidence we turn to God:*

**Reader:** We pray God's blessing on N. and N. May the Lord who has brought them to this happy day be their constant companion through their lives together. May He constantly protect and strengthen their love. **Lord hear us.**

**All:** Lord graciously hear us.

**Reader:** For N. and N.'s families, relatives and friends who have walked with them on life's journey. We pray especially for N. and N.'s parents who have helped them reach this happy day. **Lord hear us.**

**All:** Lord graciously hear us.

**Reader:** We pray that the love of N. and N. be patient and gentle, ready to trust and endure whatever life brings. May their home be a gentle place of laughter, understanding and kindness. **Lord hear us.**

**All:** Lord graciously hear us.

**Reader:** For married couples everywhere, that their lives will be an example to the world of unity, fidelity and love. **Lord hear us.**

**All:** Lord graciously hear us.

**Reader:** For our friends especially those who are married and those preparing for marriage. May the Lord guide and protect them and may their lives be filled with happiness and peace. **Lord hear us.**

**All:** Lord graciously hear us.

**Reader:** For those who have died, especially those we have known and loved, that they may enjoy perfect happiness and fulfilment in eternal life. **Lord hear us.**

**All:** Lord graciously hear us.

**Priest:** *Creative and ever-loving God, as we celebrate the marriage of N. and N, we pray that their love for each other may continue to deepen as they journey through life together. We make our prayers through Christ our Lord.*

**All:** *Amen.*

## Prayer over the Gifts

**Priest:** Lord,  
Accept the gifts we offer you on this happy day.  
In your Fatherly love watch over and protect N. and N. whom you  
have united in marriage.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen

**Or**

**Priest:** Lord,  
Hear our prayers for N. and N., who have come here today to be  
united in the sacrament of marriage.  
Increase their faith in you and in each other, and through them bless  
your Church (with Christian children).  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who live and  
reign with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

## PREFACES

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks. By this sacrament your grace unites man and woman in an unbreakable bond of love and peace. You have designed the chaste love of husband and wife for the increase both of the human family and of your own family born in baptism. You are the loving Father of the world of nature; you are the loving Father of the new creation of grace. In Christian marriage you bring together the two orders of creation; nature's gift of children enriches the world and your grace enriches your Church. Through Christ, the choirs of angels and all the saints praise and worship your glory.  
May our voices blend with theirs as we join in their unending hymn of praise:  
Holy, holy....

**Or**

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God, We do well always and everywhere to give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
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 the divine life through our union with Christ. You made us the heirs of Christ's eternal glory. This outpouring of love in 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, with the angels and all the saints in heaven. We proclaim your glory and join in their unending hymn of praise:  
Holy, holy....

# **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYERS**

## **Eucharistic Prayer 1**

**Priest:** To you, therefore, most merciful Father, we make humble prayer and petition through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord:  
that you accept and bless ☩ these gifts, these offerings, these holy and unblemished sacrifices, which we offer you firstly for your holy Catholic Church. Be pleased to grant her peace, to guard, unite and govern her throughout the whole world, together with your servant Francis our Pope, Eamon our bishop, and all those who, holding to the truth, hand on the catholic and apostolic faith. Remember, Lord, your servants (N. and N.) and all gathered here, whose faith and devotion are known to you.  
For them, we offer you this sacrifice of praise or they offer it for themselves and all who are dear to them:  
for the redemption of their souls, in hope of health and well-being, and paying their homage to you, the eternal God, living and true.

In communion with those whose memory we venerate, especially the glorious ever-Virgin Mary, Mother of our God and Lord, Jesus Christ, and blessed Joseph, her Spouse, your blessed Apostles and Martyrs, Peter and Paul, Andrew, (James, John, Thomas, James, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Simon and Jude; Linus, Cletus, Clement, Sixtus, Cornelius, Cyprian, Lawrence, Chrysogonus, John and Paul, Cosmas and Damian) and all your Saints; we ask that through their merits and prayers, in all things we may be defended by your protecting help.

Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

Therefore, Lord, we pray:

graciously accept this oblation of our service, that of your whole family; order our days in your peace, and command that we be delivered from eternal damnation and counted among the flock of those you have chosen.

Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

Be pleased, O God, we pray, to bless, acknowledge, and approve this offering in every respect; make it spiritual and acceptable, so that it may become for us the Body and Blood of your most beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the day before he was to suffer, He took bread in His holy and venerable hands, and with eyes raised to heaven to you, O God, His almighty Father, giving you thanks, He said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to His disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,  
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,  
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.**

In a similar way, when supper was ended, He took this precious chalice in His holy and venerable hands, and once more giving you thanks, He said the blessing and gave the chalice to His disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,  
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,  
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,  
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY  
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.**

**DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.**

**Priest: The mystery of faith.**

**Acclamation:**

**All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
and profess your Resurrection  
until you come again.**

**Or:**

**All: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,  
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
until you come again.**

**Or:**

**All: Save us, Saviour of the world,  
for by your Cross and Resurrection  
you have set us free.**

**Priest: Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial of the blessed Passion, the Resurrection from the dead, and the glorious Ascension into heaven of Christ, your Son, our Lord, we, your servants and your holy people, offer to your glorious majesty from the gifts that you have given us, this pure victim, this holy victim, this spotless victim, the holy Bread of eternal life and the Chalice of everlasting salvation.**

**Be pleased to look upon these offerings with a serene and kindly countenance, and to accept them, as once you were pleased to accept the gifts of your servant Abel the just, the sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith, and the offering of your high priest Melchizedek, a holy sacrifice, a spotless victim.**

**In humble prayer we ask you, almighty God:  
command that these gifts be borne by the hands of your holy Angel to your altar on high in the sight of your divine majesty, so that all of us, who through this participation at the altar receive the most holy Body and Blood of your Son, may be filled with every grace and heavenly blessing.**

**Through Christ our Lord.**

**All: Amen.**

**Remember also, Lord, your servants N. and N., who have gone before us with the sign of faith and rest in the sleep of peace.**

**Grant them, O Lord, we pray, and all who sleep in Christ, a place of refreshment, light and peace.**

**Through Christ our Lord.**

**All: Amen.**

**Priest:** To us, also, your servants, who, though sinners, hope in your abundant mercies, graciously grant some share and fellowship with your holy Apostles and Martyrs:  
with John the Baptist, Stephen, Matthias, Barnabas, (Ignatius, Alexander, Marcellinus, Peter, Felicity, Perpetua, Agatha, Lucy, Agnes, Cecilia, Anastasia) and all your Saints; admit us, we beseech you, into their company, not weighing our merits, but granting us your pardon, through Christ our Lord.

Through whom you continue to make all these good things, O Lord; you sanctify them, fill them with life, bless them, and bestow them upon us.

**Priest:** Through him, and with him, and in him,  
O God, almighty Father,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honour is yours,  
for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

### **Eucharistic Prayer 2 (included in Booklet provided)**

### **Eucharistic Prayer 3**

**Priest:** You are indeed Holy, O Lord, and all you have created rightly gives you praise, for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, by the power and working of the Holy Spirit, you give life to all things and make them holy, and you never cease to gather a people to yourself, so that from the rising of the sun to its setting a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.

Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you:  
by the same Spirit graciously make holy these gifts we have brought to you for consecration, that they may become the Body and ☩ Blood of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, at whose command we celebrate these mysteries.

For on the night He was betrayed He Himself took bread,  
and, giving you thanks, He said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to His disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,  
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,  
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.**

In a similar way, when supper was ended, He took the chalice, and, giving you thanks, He said the blessing, and gave the chalice to His disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,  
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,  
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,  
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY  
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.  
DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.**

**Priest: The mystery of faith.**

**All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
and profess your Resurrection  
until you come again.**

**Or:**

**All: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,  
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
until you come again.**

**Or:**

**All: Save us, Saviour of the world,  
for by your Cross and Resurrection  
you have set us free.**

**Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial of the saving Passion of your Son, His wondrous Resurrection and Ascension into heaven, and as we look forward to His second coming, we offer you in thanksgiving this holy and living sacrifice.**

**Look, we pray, upon the oblation of your Church and, recognising the sacrificial Victim by whose death you willed to reconcile us to yourself, grant that we, who are nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son and filled with His Holy Spirit, may become one body, one spirit in Christ.**

**May He make of us an eternal offering to you, so that we may obtain an inheritance with your elect, especially with the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with blessed Joseph, her Spouse, with your blessed Apostles and glorious Martyrs (with Saint N.: *the Saint of the day or Patron Saint*) and with all the Saints, on whose constant intercession in your presence we rely for unfailing help.**

**May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation, we pray, O Lord,  
advance the peace and salvation of all the world.**

**Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity your pilgrim Church on earth, with your servant Francis our Pope and Eamon our Bishop, the Order of Bishops, all the clergy, and the entire people you have gained for your own.**

**Listen graciously to the prayers of this family, whom you have summoned before you:**

**in your compassion, O Merciful Father, gather to yourself all your children scattered throughout the world.**

**To our departed brothers and sisters and to all who were pleasing to you at their passing from this life, give kind admittance to your kingdom. There we hope to enjoy for ever the fullness of your glory through Christ our Lord, through whom you bestow on the world all that is good.**

**Priest: Through him, and with him, and in him,  
O God, almighty Father,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honour is yours,  
for ever and ever.**

**All: Amen.**

## **Eucharistic Prayer IV**

**Priest: We give you praise, Father most holy, for you are great and you have fashioned all your works in wisdom and in love.**

**You formed man in your own image and entrusted the whole world to his care, so that in serving you alone, the Creator, he might have dominion over all creatures. And when through disobedience he had lost your friendship, you did not abandon him to the domain of death.**

**For you came in mercy to the aid of all, so that those who seek might find you. Time and again you offered them covenants and through the prophets taught them to look forward to salvation.**

**And you so loved the world, Father most holy, that in the fullness of time you sent your Only Begotten Son to be our Saviour.**

**Made incarnate by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, He shared our human nature in all things but sin.**

**To the poor He proclaimed the good news of salvation, to prisoners, freedom, and to the sorrowful of heart, joy.**

**To accomplish your plan, He gave himself up to death, and, rising from the dead, He destroyed death and restored life.**

**And that we might live no longer for ourselves but for Him who died and rose again for us, He sent the Holy Spirit from you, Father, as the first fruits for those who believe, so that, bringing to perfection His work in the world, He might sanctify creation to the full.**

**Therefore, O Lord, we pray:**

**may this same Holy Spirit graciously sanctify these offerings, that they may become the Body and ☩ Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ for the celebration of this great mystery, which He Himself left us as an eternal covenant.**

**For when the hour had come for Him to be glorified by you, Father most holy, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end: and while they were at supper, He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying:**

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,  
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,  
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.**

**In a similar way, taking the chalice filled with the fruit of the vine, He gave thanks, and gave the chalice to His disciples, saying:**

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,  
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,  
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,  
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY  
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.  
DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.**

**Priest: The mystery of faith.**

**All:** We proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
and profess your Resurrection  
until you come again.

**Or:**

**All:** When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,  
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
until you come again.

**Or:**

**All:** Save us, Saviour of the world,  
for by your Cross and Resurrection  
you have set us free.

**Priest:** Therefore, O Lord, as we now celebrate the memorial of our redemption, we remember Christ's death and His descent to the realm of the dead, we proclaim His Resurrection and His Ascension to your right hand, and, as we await His coming in glory, we offer you His Body and Blood, the sacrifice acceptable to you which brings salvation to the whole world.

Look, O Lord, upon the Sacrifice which you yourself have provided for your Church, and grant in your loving kindness to all who partake of this one Bread and one Chalice that, gathered into one body by the Holy Spirit, they may truly become a living sacrifice in Christ to the praise of your glory.

Therefore, Lord, remember now all for whom we offer this sacrifice: especially your servant Francis our Pope, Eamon our Bishop, and the whole Order of Bishops, all the clergy, those who take part in this offering, those gathered here before you, your entire people, and all who seek you with a sincere heart.

Remember also those who have died in the peace of your Christ and all the dead, whose faith you alone have known.

To all of us, your children, grant, O merciful Father, that we may enter into a heavenly inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with blessed Joseph, her Spouse, and with your Apostles and Saints in your kingdom. There, with the whole of creation, freed from the corruption of sin and death, may we glorify you through Christ our Lord, through whom you bestow on the world all that is good.

**Priest:** Through him, and with him, and in him,  
O God, almighty Father,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honour is yours,  
for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

### **NUPTIAL BLESSING**

**Priest:** Let us ask God to bless N. and N., now married in Christ, and unite them in His love.



*Pause for silent prayer*

**Priest:** God, our Father, creator of the universe, you made man and woman in your own likeness and blessed their union. We humbly pray to you for this groom and bride, today united in the sacrament of marriage.  
May your blessing come upon them. May they find happiness in their love for each other (be blessed in their children) and enrich the life of the Church.  
May they praise you in their days of happiness and turn to you in times of sorrow.  
May they know the joy of your help in their work and the you with the Church and be your witnesses in the world. May old age come to them in the company of their friends and may they reach at last the kingdom of heaven.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

**Or:**

**Priest:** Let us ask God to bless N. and N., now married in Christ, and unite them in His love.

*Pause for silent prayer*

**Priest:** Father, you created the universe and made man and woman in your own likeness. You gave woman as companion to man so that they should no longer be two, but one flesh, teaching us that those you have so united may never be separated.

Father, you have sanctified marriage in a mystery so holy that it is a sign of the union of Christ and his Church. Look with love upon N. as she asks your blessing. May she live in peace with you and follow the example of those women whose lives are praised in the scriptures. May N. place his trust in her and see her as his companion. May he always honour her and love her as Christ loves the Church.

Father, keep this husband and wife strong in faith and true to your commandments. May they be faithful to each other, examples of Christian living and witnesses of Christ. (Bless them with children and help them to be good parents.) And after a long and happy life together may they enjoy the company of your saints in heaven.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

**Or:**

**Priest:** Let us pray to the Lord for N. and N., who as they begin their married life come to God's altar to deepen their love (by sharing in the body and blood of Christ).

*Pause for silent prayer*

**Priest:** Father, you created man and woman in your own image and united them in body and heart so that they might fulfil your plan for the world. To reveal your loving design, you made the union of husband and wife a sign of the covenant between you and your people; through the sacrament of marriage you perfect this union and make it now a sign of Christ's love for his bride, the Church.

**Lord, bless this husband and wife and protect them. Grant that as they live this sacrament they may learn to share with each other the gifts of your love. May they become one in heart and mind as witnesses to your presence in their marriage. (Bless them with children who will be formed by the gospel and have a place in your family in heaven.)**

**May N. be a good wife (and mother), caring for her home, faithful to her husband, generous and kind.**

**May N. be a good husband (and a devoted father), gentle and strong, faithful to his wife and a careful provider for his household.**

**Father, grant that, as they now come as husband and wife to your altar, they may one day share your feast in heaven.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

**All: Amen.**

### **COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

**Priest: Christ loves His Church, and He sacrificed Himself for her so that she could become like a holy and untouched bride.**

**Or:**

**Priest: I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you, says the Lord.**

### **REFLECTIONS**

**This Day I Married My Best Friend**

**This Day I Married My Best Friend**

**This day I married my best friend ...**

**the one I laugh with as we share life's wondrous zest, as we find new enjoyments and experience all that's best.**

**...the one I live for because the world seems brighter as our happy times are better and our burdens feel much lighter.**

**...the one I love with every fibre of my soul.**

**We used to feel vaguely incomplete, now together we are whole.**

**Author Unknown**

**Or:**

**Prayer of Love**

**Our prayer for you is this:**

**That you will always remember the qualities that attracted you to each other when you first met and how you felt as your feelings of attraction turned into respect, admiration and finally**

love.

**That you will work hard to turn your feelings of love into acts of love so that nothing and no one can divide you.**

**That you will always have kind and loving hearts that are quick to ask for forgiveness when you are wrong as well as to forgive when your partner is wrong.**

**That your love might grow to hear all things, believe all things, and hope for all things, endure all things.**

**We pray you place your marriage in God's hands, and that your love increases and overflows, beyond anything you can yet imagine.**

Author Unknown

**Or:**

### **What We Would Wish For You**

**I cannot say what we would wish for you and your marriage.**

**All of your dreams in life are your own and shall be fluid, ebbing and flowing from shore to shore as you discover the nature of each success and disappointment.**

**We cannot wish for you to know no sorrows in the years ahead, for to never know sorrow would mean that you would never be blessed with anything worth while.**

**We cannot wish for you a life without struggles, for that would mean a life without achievement.**

**Yet we can wish that all the roads you travel and the feelings**

**experienced along the way shall make your marriage stronger through the seasons.**

**That your home and your togetherness shall forever remain a place of sanctuary and renewal that you share more joys than sorrows**

**And that your relationship continues to grow and endure and inspire.**

**Today we wish nothing more or less than all that you hope and dream for yourselves.**

**And that it last for a lifetime.**

**Or:**

### **Blessing For A Marriage**

**May your marriage bring you all the exquisite excitements a marriage should bring, and may life grant you also patience, tolerance, and understanding.**

**May you always need one another - not so much to fill your emptiness as to help you to know your fullness.**

**A mountain needs a valley to be complete; the valley does not make the mountain less, but more; and the valley is more a valley because it has a mountain towering over it.**

**So let it be with you and you.**

**May you need one another, but not out of weakness.**

**May you want one another, but not out of lack.**

**May you entice one another, but not compel one another.**

**May you embrace one another, but not out encircle one another.**

**May you succeed in all important ways with one another, and not fail in the little graces.**

**May you look for things to praise, often say, "I love you!" and take no notice of small faults.**

**If you have quarrels that push you apart, may both of you hope to have good sense enough to take the first step back.**

**May you enter into the mystery which is the awareness of one another's presence - no more**

**physical than spiritual, warm and near when you are side by side, and warm and near when you are in separate rooms or even distant cities.  
May you have happiness, and may you find it making one another happy.  
May you have love, and may you find it loving one another!**

**James Dillet Freeman**

**Or:**

### **On Love**

**Love is a mighty power, a great and complete good.  
Love alone lightens every burden, and makes rough places smooth.  
It bears every hardship as though it were nothing,  
and renders all bitterness sweet and acceptable.**

**Nothing is sweeter than love,  
Nothing stronger,  
Nothing higher,  
Nothing wider,  
Nothing more pleasant,  
Nothing fuller or better in heaven or earth;  
for love is born of God.**

**Love flies, runs and leaps for joy.  
It is free and unrestrained.  
Love knows no limits, but ardently transcends all bounds.  
Love feels no burden, takes no account of toil,  
attempts things beyond its strength.**

**Love sees nothing as impossible,  
for it feels able to achieve all things.  
It is strange and effective,  
while those who lack love faint and fail.**

**Love is not fickle and sentimental,  
nor is it intent on vanities.  
Like a living flame and a burning torch,  
it surges upward and surely surmounts every obstacle.**

**Thomas À Kempis (1379-1471)**

**Or:**

### **Traditional Irish Blessing**

**May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
The rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.**

**May God be with you and bless you;**

**May you see your children's children.  
May you be poor in misfortune,  
Rich in blessings,  
May you know nothing but happiness  
From this day forward.**

**May the road rise to meet you  
May the wind be always at your back  
May the warm rays of sun fall upon your home  
And may the hand of a friend always be near.**

**May green be the grass you walk on,  
May blue be the skies above you,  
May pure be the joys that surround you,  
May true be the hearts that love you.**

**Or:**

### **Marriage Joins Two People in the Circle Of its Love**

**Marriage is a commitment to life, the best that two people can find and bring out in each other.  
It offers opportunities for sharing and growth that no other relationship can equal.  
It is a physical and an emotional joining that is promised for a lifetime.**

**Within the circle of its love, marriage encompasses all of life's most important relationships.  
A wife and a husband are each other's best friend, confidant, lover, teacher, listener, and critic.  
And there may come times when one partner is heartbroken or ailing, and the love of the other  
may resemble the tender caring of a parent for a child.**

**Marriage deepens and enriches every facet of life.  
Happiness is fuller, memories are fresher, commitment is stronger,  
even anger is felt more strongly, and passes away more quickly.**

**Marriage understands and forgives the mistakes life is unable to avoid.  
It encourages and nurtures new life, new experiences, and new ways of expressing a love that is  
deeper than life.**

**When two people pledge their love and care for each other in  
marriage, they create a spirit unique unto themselves which binds them closer than any spoken  
or written words.**

**Marriage is a promise, a potential made in the hearts of two people who love each other and  
takes a lifetime to fulfil.**

**Edmund O'Neill (b.1929)**

**Or:**

### **The Day of Your Wedding**

**Together you share the joy of a deep commitment and the sacred trust.  
You have given each other the most precious gift of love.**

Treasure it, nurture it, and encourage it with all the honesty you used in creating it.  
You are sharing something rare and beautiful.  
Always speak the truth, and listened attentively, so that you may  
understand each other's thoughts and intentions.  
Inspire each other by sharing your accomplishments.  
Say "I love you" often to retain the warmth between you.  
Remember to laugh a lot, even when you're angry  
After all, you're each other's best friend.  
Stand together and for each other always:  
be content in mind and spirit.  
Make each day a blessing and a fulfilment of your dreams.

Author Unknown

**Or:**

### **“Scaffolding”**

Masons, when they start upon a building,  
Are careful to test out the scaffolding;

Make sure that planks won't slip at busy points,  
Secure all ladders, tighten bolted joints.

And yet all this comes down when the job's done  
Showing off walls of sure and solid stone.

So if, my dear, there sometimes seem to be  
Old bridges breaking between you and me

Never fear. We may let the scaffolds fall,  
Confident that we have built our wall.

Séamus Heaney

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Priest:** Let us pray  
Lord, we who have shared the food of your table pray for our friends N. and N.  
whom you have joined in marriage.  
Keep them close to you always.  
May their love for each other proclaim to all the world their faith in you.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

**Or:**

**Priest:** Let us pray

**Almighty God, may the sacrifice we have offered and the Eucharist we have shared strengthen the love of N. and N. and give us all your fatherly aid. We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

**All: Amen**

### **SOLEMN BLESSING**

**Priest: God the eternal Father keep you in love with each other, so that the peace of Christ may stay with you and be always in your home.**

**All: Amen**

**Priest: May (your children bless you,) your friends console you and all people live in peace with you.**

**All: Amen**

**Priest: May you always bear witness to the love of God in this world so that the afflicted and the needy will find in you generous friends and welcome you into the joys of heaven.**

**All: Amen**

**Priest: May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son ☩ and the Holy Spirit.**

**All: Amen.**

**Or:**

**Priest: May God, the almighty Father, give you his joy and bless you (in your children).**

**All: Amen.**

**Priest: May the only Son of God have mercy on you and help you in good times and in bad.**

**All: Amen.**

**Priest: May the Holy Spirit of God always fill your hearts with His love.**

**All: Amen.**

**Priest: May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ☩ and the Holy Spirit.**

**All: Amen.**

**Or:**

**Priest: May the Lord Jesus, who was a guest at the wedding in Cana, bless you and your families and friends.**

**All: Amen.**

**Priest: May Jesus, who loved His Church to the end, always fill your hearts with His love.**

**All: Amen.**

**Priest: May He grant that, as you believe in His resurrection, so you may wait for Him in joy and hope.**

**All: Amen.**

**Priest: May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ☩ and the Holy Spirit.**

**All: Amen**





