



*Organising and Celebrating  
Your Marriage*



# PLANNING FOR YOUR WEDDING CEREMONY

## **Congratulations**

This booklet will assist you as you prepare to celebrate your Wedding Ceremony with us. It also outlines the compulsory requirements issued by the Church and the Civil Authority:

## **Church Requirements**

### **#1 Required Notice & Booking**

A MINIMUM of three months notice must be given of the proposed Wedding. Contact the Parish Office on +4428 7134 2303 to book the date, time and which Church. You must also inform the Parish Office who the Officiating Priest is.

### **#2 The Officiating Priest**

If your Officiating Priest is not one of the Priests of our Parishes, then time maybe required to get special permissions for that Priest from both the Church and the State.

### **#3 Choose your Church**

There are four Churches in the Parishes of Glendermott and Strathfoyle:

- St Columb's Church, 32 Chapel Road, Waterside, Derry, BT47 2BB
- Church of the Immaculate Conception, 10 Trench Road, Derry, BT47 3BU
- St Oliver Plunkett's Church, Parkmore Drive, Strathfoyle, BT47 6XA
- St. Mary's Oratory, 3 Duncastle Road, Newbuildings, Derry BT47 2QS

### **#4 Time of Ceremony**

Wedding Ceremonies are normally at **1pm** in all our Churches. For particular reasons and if there are no other bookings for that Church another time may be arranged.

### **#5 Pre Marriage Course**

All couples must attend a Pre-Marriage Course anytime within a year, but should be completed three months before the Marriage date. The certificate awarded on completion becomes part of your Church Paperwork (Pre-Nuptial Enquiry Forms). ACCORD deliver these Courses in a number of venues giving you variety to suit your availability.

Contact: ACCORD, The Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry, BT48 6XU. Telephone:(028) 7136 2475. Website: [www.accord.ie](http://www.accord.ie)

### **#6 Choosing another Church**

It is customary for the Marriage to take place in the Parish of the Bride. However, if the Bride would prefer the Wedding to be celebrated in another Parish, permission must be obtained. The preparation of the Church Paperwork still takes place in the Parish of residence and any of the Priests of the Parish will assist with this. For Marriages taking place elsewhere in Ireland at least three months should be allowed for the completion of the necessary paperwork.

### **#7 Church Paperwork**

Church paperwork is done by the Priest in the Parish in which you reside (are domiciled). The onus is on the couple to ensure that enough time has been allowed to make the necessary enquiries to ascertain your freedom to be married and complete the paperwork.

### **#8 Getting Married Outside Ireland**

To arrange to have your Wedding in a Catholic Church in another country, you must:

- comply with the Church and Civil Regulations of that Country.
- contact your local Priest who will advise you on Church procedures.
- give *at least* 6 months notice. Please note that some countries require that paperwork be completed 6 months before Marriage.
- The onus is on you to ensure there is enough time to make the necessary enquiries to establish your freedom to be married, and to complete and forward the Church paperwork to the Diocese in which you are to be married.

# The Marriage Ceremony

## #9 Format of the Marriage Ceremony

There are two forms of the Church Marriage Ceremony – The Rite of Marriage either without or within Mass. The formats of these Celebrations are detailed below. It may be more appropriate to have the Marriage Ceremony celebrated without Mass in cases of a Mixed Marriage or where there is a lack of regular practice or understanding of the Mass is by those attending or taking part in the Ceremony. In certain circumstances the Rite of Marriage will have to be celebrated without Mass, e.g. when one party is not baptised.

## #10 Music for the Ceremony

Music has a vital role in setting the tone and helping to create an atmosphere that is appropriate for and supports the sacredness of the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage itself and the Mass. Therefore:

- Music must be of a liturgical nature – i.e. fitting for a Christian celebration.
- See **APPENDIX 1** for guidelines and suggestions on suitable Music.
- Only qualified organists are permitted to use the Church Organ.

## #11 Choices for the Marriage Ceremony

Around six weeks before your Marriage Ceremony you should contact the Officiating Priest about your choices for readings, the formula of the vows you are using and confirm your music choices from the texts given in this booklet.

## #12 Preparing a Booklet

If you are having a Marriage Ceremony Booklet printed, then you should prepare it as soon as you make the choices of texts and music. Your Officiating Priest should see this and approve that all text and music is in order before you send it off to be printed.

## #13 Rehearsal

Contact the Parish Office about a month from your Marriage Ceremony to book a rehearsal at a time that suits you, the Officiating Priest and everyone with a role in the Ceremony.

## #14 Flowers

The Altar is where the Sacrifice of Christ is offered. In reverence, no flowers are to be placed either on or immediately in front of it. Flowers must be real and not artificial and may be placed in the Sanctuary area. Likewise, if you are using a flower display for your Marriage Candles, this cannot be placed on the Altar. A separate table will be provided in a place within the Sanctuary as agreed with the Sacristan of the Church. Please advise your Florist of these conditions and to respect the sanctity of the Altar and Sanctuary areas.

## #15 Arches, Artificial and Excessive Trimmings

Our Churches are places that house the Real Presence of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Tabernacle in the Sanctuary. They are beautiful in their design for the worship and praise of God. Arches are not permissible inside the Church. Artificial or synthetic trimmings such as bows on seats, candles, fake greenery or arches are not required and actually detract from the meaning and correct understanding of what the Church building is about. Trimmings deemed to be excessive or a health and safety risk will have to be removed.

## #16 Photography and Videography

In order to respect the sacredness of the Church, photographers and videographers are not allowed on or within the Sanctuary area at any time during the Marriage Ceremony.

## #17 Confetti

Under no circumstances are confetti or petals to be used at any time, either inside or outside, in any part of our Church buildings or grounds.

# Preparation of Church Documentation

Every couple marrying in the Catholic Church is required to give a minimum of **3 (three) months notice** to the Priest in the Parish in which they currently reside (are domicile).

## **#18 The Pre-Nuptial Enquiry**

Informally known as 'the wedding papers' this enquiry is carried out in the parish where the person has domicile (currently living).

It is essential that the Pre-Nuptial Enquiry be initiated no later than three months prior to the proposed date of marriage; a longer period of at least six months should be considered particularly if papers have to be sent outside of Ireland.

The Pre-Nuptial Enquiry is carried out in the form of a personal interview between the person and the Priest. Each party is interviewed separately. If the other partner is not resident in our Parish, the paperwork is completed by and then forwarded to us by the Priest of that Parish.

## **#19 Church Documents**

Both parties must present:

- A copy of your Baptismal Certificate issued within six months.
- A copy of your Confirmation Certificate issued within six months.

If you have been resident since birth in the Parish and were baptised and confirmed here, a Full Baptismal Certificate issued from the Parish Office within the last six months will suffice this requirement.

Otherwise, the Baptismal and Confirmation Certificate(s) can be obtained from the Parish(es) in which you were baptised and/or confirmed. If Confirmation details are not on your Baptismal Certificate, then you will have to obtain a separate Confirmation Certificate from the Parish in which you were confirmed.

In the case of a mixed marriage, the forms of the baptised non-Catholic or non-baptised person will be completed in the Parish of the Catholic party. A person baptised in another Christian Church will require a copy of their Baptism Certificate from that Church.

## **#20 Letter of Freedom**

You may require a Letter of Freedom from any parishes you have resided in since birth to help establish your freedom to be married. In addition a Statement of Freedom to Marry may be required from either parents or relatives or it may have to be in the form of a sworn affidavit. Your priest will advise which type of the proof of freedom is required.

## **#21 Mixed Religion Marriage: Additional Requirements**

In the case of a Marriage between a Catholic and a member of another Christian Church, the Priest will apply to the Bishop on your behalf for Permission for a Mixed Marriage. The granting of this dispensation is dependant upon the promise of the Catholic party to do all in his or her power in order that their future children will be baptised in the Catholic Church and brought up in the faith.

If the Marriage takes place in a Church of another Christian denomination, the Priest will apply to the Bishop to grant a Dispensation from Form, which is permission to be married by the rites of another church.

If the other party is not baptised the Priest will seek a Disparity of Cult Dispensation for the Marriage, dependant on the same promise as listed above for a Mixed Marriage.

# Civil Law Requirements

Current Civil Law <sup>\*\*NB</sup> requires a couple to give notice of the intention to marry to the local Council Authority of the Church where the proposed Marriage Ceremony will take place.

**The Church has no involvement in this process;** it is between the persons getting married and the District Registrar to ensure that all regulations and requirements are met.

## #22 Marriage Notice Application Forms

You must each notify the Registrar of your intention to marry by completing a Marriage Notice Application Form available from: The Registrar's Office, Derry & Strabane Council, 14 Magazine Street, Derry, BT48 6HH. Contact: Telephone: +4428 7137 6520

Email: michelle.duddy@derrystrabane.com Website: www.derrystrabane.com

You can notify the Registrar up to one year prior to the date of marriage. However the completed Marriage Notice Application Form for each party should be returned to the District Registrar 8 (eight) weeks prior to the date of marriage.

The absolute minimum period is 28 days before the date of the proposed marriage, but if you leave things as late as this you could be faced with the need to postpone your Ceremony if freedom to marry cannot be satisfactorily established by the Registrar.

The Registrar needs to see documents that prove your age, nationality and identity. If you were born in the UK, you will need to provide your full birth certificate (long version) and passport. If you were born outside the UK, you will need to provide the certified copy of your birth issued by the appropriate authority of that country and your passport or national identity card. Your Officiating Priest must also sign both your Marriage Notice Application Forms before you return them to the District Registrar.

## #23 Marriage Schedule

This is the Civil document to be signed in the Church on the day of the Wedding. It is prepared once the District Registrar has received the Marriage Notice Forms, the Officiating Priest is approved and there are no civil impediments to the marriage. This legal document must be present in the Church where the Marriage Ceremony is taking place before it starts, and is then signed after that Marriage Ceremony on the day. It is available to collect from the Registrar's Office not sooner than 14 days before the date of the Marriage.

It is the responsibility of the couple to ensure that this Marriage Schedule is present in the Church before your Marriage Ceremony begins. It is recommended that after collection from the District Registrar's Office it is taken to the Parish Office of the Church in which the Marriage Ceremony is taking place.

### **A marriage legally cannot proceed without the Marriage Schedule in the Church.**

It is also the responsibility of the couple to return the signed Marriage Schedule to the Registrar's office within 3 (three) working days after the Marriage Ceremony.

## #24 Non Citizens

If you are not a citizen and are visiting Northern Ireland to be married, you may need to apply for a visa beforehand or you will not be able to marry in Northern Ireland.

If you are already in the UK, and you are a citizen of a country that is not a member of the European Economic Area or Switzerland, you will need the approval of the Home Secretary to be married here. For more information visit the Home Office website at: [www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk)

**\*\*NB** The Civil Law information presented above is taken from the website of the General Register Office at:

**<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/getting-married-religious-ceremony>**

And the information on the local Council website at: **<http://www.derrystrabane.com/marriage>**

You should visit these websites to ensure there are no additions or changes to the excerpts and information on the Civil procedures, regulations and Law presented here. The description of Civil Requirements are those on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018 and do not purport to present the full Civil legal requirements for Marriage.

# FORMAT OF THE WEDDING CEREMONY

**\*\* The asterisks mark the parts that are only celebrated within Mass**

## **Opening Rites**

Sign of the Cross

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Gloria

Collect Prayer

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

First Reading

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

Homily

## **The Rite of Marriage**

Opening Address

Declaration of Consent

Blessing and Exchange of Rings

Prayer of the Newly Married Couple

## **The Prayer of the Faithful**

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## **The Liturgy of the Eucharist**

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Presentation of the Gifts

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Preparation of the Gifts

\*\*

The Eucharistic Prayer

**The Lord's Prayer**

**The Nuptial Blessing**

**The Sign of Peace**

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The Lamb of God

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Holy Communion

## **The Concluding Rites**

The Final Blessing

The Dismissal

## WHAT TEXTS ARE USED AND WHAT TO CHOOSE

For the **Liturgy of the Word** an option from each of the following is chosen:

- A First Reading
- A Responsorial Psalm (if it is not sung by the Music Ministry)
- A Second Reading

For **The Rite of Marriage** an option from each of the following is chosen:

- The Opening Address
- The Declaration of Consent
- The Blessing of the Rings

During the **Exchange of Rings** the couple use the formula of words listed below and following that recite the **Prayer of the Newly Married Couple** together.

Then follows the **Prayer of the Faithful**.

# LITURGY OF THE WORD

## First Readings

### Option 1

**Genesis 1:26-28.31**

A reading from the book of Genesis.

God said, 'Let us make man 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 man in the image of himself, in the image of God he created him, 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.

### Option 2

**Song of Songs 2:8-10.14.16; 8:6-7**

A reading from the Song of Songs.

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, like a seal on your arm. 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.

### Option 3

**Genesis 2:18-24**

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that 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.



**Option 4****Tobit 8:4-8**

A reading from the book of Tobit.

On the evening of their marriage, Tobias said to Sarah, 'You and I must pray and petition our Lord to win his grace and protection.' 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.

**Option 5****Jeremiah 31:31-34**

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

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 I 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.

**Option 6****Ruth 1:16-17**

A reading from the book of Ruth.

Wherever you go, I will go. Wherever you live, I shall live. Your people will be my people and your God will be my God too. Wherever you die, I shall die and there shall I be buried beside you. We will be together forever and our love will be the gift of life.

The word of the Lord.

# Responsorial Psalm

(A Responsorial Psalm is read if not sung)

## Option 1

## Psalm 32 (33)

Reader: The Lord fills the earth with his love.  
**All: The Lord fills the earth with his love.**

Reader: 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.  
**All: The Lord fills the earth with his love.**

Reader: 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.  
**All: The Lord fills the earth with his love.**

Reader: May your love be upon us, O Lord,  
as we place all our hope in you.  
**All: The Lord fills the earth with his love.**

## Option 2:

## Psalm 102 (103)

Reader: I will bless the Lord at all times.  
**All: I will bless the Lord at all times.**

Reader: I will bless the Lord at all times,  
His praise is always on my lips;  
In the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad.  
**All: I will bless the Lord at all times.**

Reader: Glorify the Lord with me.  
Together let us praise God's name.  
I sought the Lord and he answered me;  
From all my terrors he set me free.  
**All: I will bless the Lord at all times.**

Reader: 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.  
**All: I will bless the Lord at all times.**

Reader: 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.  
**All: I will bless the Lord at all times.**

# Second Readings

## Option 1

## 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

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 men 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 sin 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.

## Option 2

## Colossians 3:12-17

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians.

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 the 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.

## Option 3

## Romans 8:31-35. 37-39

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

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.

## **Options 4**

## **1 John 4:7-12**

A reading from the first letter of St John.

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 set 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.

## **Option 5**

## **Romans 12:1-2.9-18**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

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. 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.

## **Option 6**

## **1 John 3:18-24**

A reading from the first letter of St John.

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 do. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

# RITE OF MARRIAGE

## OPENING ADDRESS

### **Option 1 Introduction and Response**

**Priest:** Dear children of God, 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, (that they accept from God the children he may give them, and bring them up in his love). To help them in their marriage the husband and wife receive the life-long grace of the sacrament. Is this your understanding of marriage?

**Both: It is.**

### **Option 2 Introduction**

**Priest:** Dear children of God, you have come to this church so that the Lord may seal your love in the presence of the priest and this community. Christ blesses this love.

He has already consecrated you in baptism; now, by a special sacrament, he strengthens you to fulfil the duties of your married life. BRIDE and GROOM you are about to celebrate this sacrament.

### **Option 3 Introduction**

**Priest:** Dear children of God, 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.

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 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:

### **Option 2 and 3 - Responses**

**Priest:** Have you come here of your own free will and choice and without compulsion to marry each other?

**Both: We have.**

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

**Both: 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?

**Both: We are.**

# DECLARATION OF CONSENT

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

## Option 1

*Groom* \_\_\_\_\_, do you consent to be my wife?

*Bride* I do. Do you \_\_\_\_\_ consent to be my husband?

*Groom* I do.

*Groom* 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.

*Joining hands they say together,*

To love each other truly for better for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, all the days of our life.

Priest: What God joins together man must not separate. May the Lord confirm the consent that you have given and enrich you with his blessings.

## Option 2

*Groom* I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you \_\_\_\_\_ 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, \_\_\_\_\_, take you \_\_\_\_\_ 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).*

Priest: What God joins together man must not separate. May the Lord confirm the consent that you have given and enrich you with his blessings.

## Option 3

Priest: \_\_\_\_\_, do you take \_\_\_\_\_ as your wife, for better for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, all the days of our life.

Groom: I do.

Priest: \_\_\_\_\_, do you take \_\_\_\_\_ as your husband, for better for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, all the days of our life.

Bride: I do

Priest: What God joins together man must not separate. May the Lord confirm the consent that you have given and enrich you with his blessings.

## Option 4

Groom: \_\_\_\_\_, do you consent to be my wife?

Bride: I do.

Bride: \_\_\_\_\_, do you consent to be my husband?

Groom: I do.

Both: 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, all the days of our life.

Priest: The Lord has joined you together.  
May he fulfill his blessing in you; may he keep you in his love.

## BLESSING OF RINGS

- Option 1** Priest: May the Lord bless + this ring (these rings) which will be the sign of your love and fidelity.  
**All:** **Amen.**
- Option 2** Priest: Lord, bless + BRIDE and GROOM 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.  
**All:** **Amen.**
- Option 3** 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.  
**All:** **Amen.**
- Option 4** Priest: Almighty God, bless this ring (these rings), + symbol(s) of faithfulness and unbroken love. May BRIDE and GROOM always be true to each other, may they be one in heart and mind, may they be united in love forever, through Christ our Lord.  
**All:** **Amen.**

## EXCHANGE OF RINGS (& COIN)

*The groom then places the bride's ring on her ring finger, saying:*

Groom: BRIDE, wear this ring as a sign of our faithful love.  
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*The bride then places the grooms ring on his ring finger, saying:*

Bride: GROOM, wear this ring as a sign of our faithful love.  
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*The groom may give gold and silver to the bride, saying: (OPTIONAL)*

Groom: I give you this gold and silver, a token of all I possess.

## PRAYER OF THE NEWLY MARRIED COUPLE

*The couple then say together the following prayer:*

We thank you, Lord, and we praise you for bringing us to this happy day.

You have given us to each other.

Now, together, we give ourselves to you.

We ask you Lord: make us one in our love: keep us one in your peace.

Protect our marriage. Bless our home.

Make us gentle. Keep us faithful.

And when life is over unite us again where parting is no more in the kingdom of your love.

There we will praise you in the happiness and peace of our eternal home. Amen.

# PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest: Let us pray asking the Lord our God to bless this newly married couple, and to hear the prayers we place as one family gathered here today:

Reader: We pray for BRIDE and GROOM as they begin their married life together. May their home be full of joy and laughter, may God give them good health and may they always find happiness in each other. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord graciously hear us.**

Reader: By this marriage today, two families have been united. May both families continue to be a source of love, support and guidance to BRIDE and GROOM. Lord, hear us.

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

Reader: We pray for all those who are sick, lonely, or struggling in today's world. May they be strengthened by love and be aided by those around them. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord graciously hear us.**

Reader: We pray for all here present that you may have peace in your hearts for today, hope in your hearts for tomorrow and love in your hearts forever. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord graciously hear us.**

Reader: We pray that the Lord may bless with peace all those who are victims of violence, war, and injustices in our world. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord graciously hear us.**

Reader: As we gather to celebrate this joyful day, we remember the faithful departed whom we have known and loved. (Especially.... NAMES...). May they join with us today from the heavenly home where we all hope to reunited forever. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord graciously hear us.**

Priest: Lord our God, hear our prayers today, seal and protect the union of BRIDE and GROOM with the Spirit of your love, through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**



# Appendix 1

## CHOOSING MUSIC FOR YOUR MARRIAGE CEREMONY

- This list is neither prescriptive nor exclusive but contains suggestions of popular choices.
- Other choices not listed here must be approved by the Parish and the Officiating Priest.
- Sheet music and audio for most of these pieces is available online.

### **PROCESSIONAL MARCHES** Any of the standard instrumental 'Wedding Marches' including:

- |                        |                           |                                 |                               |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Canon in D           | <i>Johan Pachelbel</i>    | • Wedding March                 | <i>Scott Mendelssohn</i>      |
| • Trumpet Voluntary    | <i>Jeremiah Clarke</i>    | • La Rejouissance               | <i>George Frideric Händel</i> |
| • Trumpet Tune in D    | <i>Henry Purcell</i>      | • Arrival of the Queen of Sheba | <i>G. F. Händel</i>           |
| • O'Carolan's Concerto | <i>Turlough O'Carolan</i> | • Gabriels Oboe                 | <i>Ennio Morricone</i>        |

### **HYMNS** Any hymns which are normally sung in Church throughout the year may be used.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • Set your hearts on the higher gifts... | <i>Stephen C. Warner</i>                  |
| • Song of Ruth                           | <i>Anthony Sharpe</i>                     |
| • Ephesian Prayer                        | <i>James V Marchionda</i>                 |
| • The Lord bless you and keep you        | <i>John Rutter</i>                        |
| • A Gaelic Blessing                      | <i>John Rutter</i>                        |
| • Amazing Grace                          | <i>David Evans</i>                        |
| • O Perfect Love                         | <i>Dorothy Gurney &amp; Joseph Barnby</i> |
| • Be still for the presence of the Lord  | <i>David Evans</i>                        |
| • Peace Perfect Peace is the Gift        | <i>Kevin Mayhew</i>                       |
| • Make me a channel of your Peace        | <i>Sebastian Temple</i>                   |
| • Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)           | <i>Hillsong</i>                           |

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALMS & CANTICLES**

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| • May your love be upon us O Lord - Psalm 32(33) | <i>Elation Ministries</i> |
| • The Lord's my Shepherd - Psalm 22(23)          | <i>Numerous Settings</i>  |
| • Here I am Lord; is it I Lord? - 1 Samuel 3     | <i>Daniel Schutte</i>     |
| • Do not be afraid I am with you - Isaiah 41     | <i>David Haas</i>         |
| • Lord I know you are near - Psalm 102(103)      | <i>Daniel Schutte</i>     |
| • Eagles' Wings - Isaiah 40                      | <i>Michael Joncas</i>     |

### **COMMUNION HYMNS**

*Especially appropriate at this most Sacred moment in the Mass, but may be used at other times:*

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| • Panis Angelicus                     | <i>Cesár Franck</i>                       |
| • Laudate Dominum                     | <i>Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart</i>            |
| • Ave Maria                           | <i>John Sebastian Bach/Charles Gounod</i> |
| • Ave Maria                           | <i>Franz Schubert</i>                     |
| • How beautiful is the Body of Christ | <i>Twila Paris</i>                        |
| • I watch the sunrise                 | <i>Colin Murphy</i>                       |
| • Father I place into your hands      | <i>Jenny Hewer</i>                        |
| • The Lord's my Shepherd              | <i>Numerous Settings</i>                  |
| • This is the air that I breathe      | <i>Michael W. Smith</i>                   |
| • Song of the Body of Christ          | <i>David Haas</i>                         |
| • A New Commandment I give unto you   | <i>Anonymous</i>                          |
| • Now in This Banquet                 | <i>Marty Haugen</i>                       |
| • Companions of the Journey           | <i>Carey Landry</i>                       |
| • The Cloud's Veil                    | <i>Liam Lawton</i>                        |

# Appendix 2

## CHECKLIST

<b>Timeline:</b>	<b>For:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Requirement:</b>	<b>Notes:</b>
1-2 years	Church	<input type="checkbox"/> Book the Church	_____
1-2 years	Church	<input type="checkbox"/> Book a Priest	_____
1 year	Church	<input type="checkbox"/> Book Pre Marriage Course	_____
1 year	State	<input type="checkbox"/> Marriage Notifications Forms	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Get signed by Priest	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Have Full Birth Certs	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Have Passports	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Fee	_____
6-3 months	Church	<input type="checkbox"/> Appointment for Paperwork	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Have Baptismal & Confirmation Certs	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Have Letter(s) of Freedom	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Bring Pre Marriage Course Cert	_____
2-1 months	Church	<input type="checkbox"/> Book Church Rehearsal	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Choose Type of Ceremony	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Choose Texts	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Choose Music	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Arrange Mass Booklet (Optional)	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Approve Choices with Priest	_____
14 days	State	<input type="checkbox"/> Collect Marriage Schedule	_____
	Church	<input type="checkbox"/> Leave Schedule at the Church	_____

**Other Notes:**

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## CONTACT US

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