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**DRAFT MARRIAGE SERVICE  
WITHIN A CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST**

**(MAR 1) Feb 2010**

**Structure**

**The Gathering**

Welcome  
Penitential Rite  
Collect

**The Proclamation of the Word**

Readings  
Homily

**The Marriage**

Declarations  
Vows  
Giving of Rings (Ring)  
Proclamation  
Blessing of the Marriage\*

**Registration of the Marriage\***

**The Intercessions**

**The Peace**

**The Thanksgiving**

Blessing of the Marriage\* (after the Lord's Prayer)

**The Communion**

The Breaking of the Bread  
Giving of Communion

**The Sending Out**

**Registration of the Marriage\***

\* indicates choice of position



**DRAFT MARRIAGE SERVICE**  
**WITHIN A CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST**

*[A hymn may be sung]*

**THE GATHERING**

*The priest greets the people*

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

**Amen**

Grace and peace be with you

**And keep you in the love of Christ.**

*Or in Eastertide:*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*An introductory sentence may be used.*

God is love, and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them (*1 John 4.16*)

*The congregation sit.*

*The bride and bridegroom remain standing.*

*The following or one of the alternative Introductions from the Appendix is used.*

We have come together to witness the marriage of N and N, to pray for God's blessing upon them, to share their joy and to celebrate their love. Marriage is a gift of God through which husband and wife may grow together in the knowledge, love and service of God. It is given that, united with one another in heart, in mind and in body, they may increase in love and trust. God joins husband and wife in life-long union as the foundation of family life (in which children are born nurtured and) in which each member of the family, in good times and in bad, may find strength, companionship and comfort, and grow to maturity in love. Marriage enriches society and strengthens community.

Marriage is a way of life made holy by God, and blessed by the presence of Jesus in the marriage at Cana in Galilee which all should uphold and honour. No one should enter into it lightly or selfishly, but reverently and responsibly in the sight of Almighty God. N and N are now to enter this way of life. They will each give their consent to the other and make solemn vows, and in token of this they will give and receive rings (a ring). We pray for them that the Holy Spirit will guide and strengthen them, that they may fulfil God's purposes for the whole of their earthly life together.

*The priest says to the congregation:*

If you are aware of any reason why these persons may not lawfully marry, you must declare it now.

*The priest says to the couple:*

N and N, you are about to make your marriage vows in the presence of God, who is judge of all and knows the secrets of our hearts; therefore if either of you knows a reason why you may not lawfully marry, you must declare it now.

## **INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

As we prepare to hear God's word and to witness the marriage of N and N, we remember our human frailty and our need for God's help in all that we do.

*(Silence)*

**Heavenly Father,  
We have sinned in thought, word and deed,  
and have failed to do what we ought to have done.  
We are sorry and truly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past and lead us in his way  
to walk as children of light. Amen**

*Or:*

Lord Jesus, in our weakness you are our strength.  
Lord, have mercy                   **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, when we stumble, you raise us up.  
Christ, have mercy                   **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, when we fail, you give us new life.  
Lord, have mercy.                   **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy on you and set you free from sin,  
strengthen you in goodness and keep you in eternal life;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## **THE COLLECT**

*The priest invites the people to pray; silence is kept and the celebrant says the collect*

*Either:*

God our Father, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the Law. Grant to your servants N and N that, loving one another, they may remain in your love all the days of their life: through Jesus Christ our Lord to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all love and all glory for time and for eternity. **Amen**

*Or one of the alternatives from the Appendix is used*

## **THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

*Either one or two readings from Scripture precede the Gospel reading. At the end of each the reader will say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*A psalm, canticle or hymn may be sung between the readings.*

## THE GOSPEL

*An acclamation may introduce the Gospel reading. One of the following may be used:*

Alleluia, alleluia.

God created them male and female  
and the two will become one.

**Alleluia.**

*Or:*

Alleluia, alleluia.

God is love;  
let us love one another  
as God has loved us.

**Alleluia.**

*Or in Lent:*

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.  
God created them male and female  
and the two will become one.

**Alleluia.**

Or:

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.  
God is love;  
let us love one another  
as God has loved us.

**Alleluia.**

*Before the Gospel the reader says:*

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint ...

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After the Gospel the reader says*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

A homily may follow the readings.

*[A hymn may be sung]*

## THE MARRIAGE

### THE DECLARATIONS

*The minister says to the bridegroom:*

*N*, will you take *N* to be your wife? Will you love her, comfort her, honour and care for her, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

*He answers:*

I will.

*The minister says to the bride:*

*N*, will you take *N* to be your husband? Will you love him, comfort him, honour and care for him, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

*She answers:*

I will.

*The minister says to the congregation:*

Will you, the families and friends of *N* and *N*, support and uphold them in their marriage now and in the years to come?

*All say:*

**We will.**

### THE VOWS

*The minister introduces the vows in these or similar words:*

*N* and *N*, You will now join hands and make your vows, in the presence of God and his people.

*The bride and bridegroom face each other.*

*The bridegroom takes the bride's right hand in his, and says:*

I, *N*, take you, *N*,  
to be my wife,  
to have and to hold  
from this day forward;  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
to love and to cherish,  
as long as we both shall live,  
according to the will and purpose of God.  
In the presence of God I make this vow.

*They loose hands.*

*The bride takes the bridegroom's right hand in hers, and says:*

I, N, take you, N,  
to be my husband,  
to have and to hold  
from this day forward;  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
to love and to cherish,  
as long as we both shall live,  
according to the will and purpose of God.  
In the presence of God I make this vow.

*They loose hands*

## THE GIVING OF RINGS

*The minister receives the rings (ring) and says this prayer.*

Heavenly Father, by your blessing let *these rings (this ring)* be to N and N a symbol of unending love and faithfulness, to remind them of the vow and covenant which they have made this day through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The bride and bridegroom face each other. In turn each places a ring on the other's finger and, holding it there says:*

N, I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness. With my body I honour you, all that I am I give to you, and all that I have I share with you within the love of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*Or, if only one ring is given, the one who receives it says*

N, I receive this ring as a sign of the love and faithfulness between us. With my body I honour you, all that I am I give to you, and all that I have I share with you, within the love of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*The minister addresses the people*

In the presence of God, and before this congregation, N and N have given their consent and made their marriage vows to one another. They have declared their marriage by the joining of hands and by the giving and receiving of *rings (a ring)*. I proclaim that they are therefore husband and wife.

*The minister joins their right hands together and says:*

Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

## The BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE

*The Blessing of the Marriage may be used here or after the Lord's Prayer.  
The husband and wife kneel, and the minister may use the following blessing.*  
All praise and glory to you most gracious God,  
For in the beginning you created us in your own image, male and female.  
Grant your blessing we pray, to N and N,  
that in marriage they may be a source of blessing to each other and to all,  
and live together in holy love. **Amen**

*The celebrant says to the couple:*  
God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve and keep you;  
the Lord mercifully look upon you with his favour; and so fill you with all spiritual  
blessings and grace, that you may so live together in this life, that in the world to  
come you may have life everlasting. **Amen**

## **THE REGISTRATION OF THE MARRIAGE**

The Registration of the Marriage may take place here or at the end of the service.  
*[An anthem or hymn may be sung.]*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*The prayers usually include the following themes*

- *Thanksgiving*
- *Spiritual growth*
- *Faithfulness, joy, love, forgiveness and healing*
- *Children, other family members and friends*

*Silence should be kept after each bidding.  
Appropriate responses may be used, for example:*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Lord, hear us,  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray to you, O Lord,  
**Lord, have mercy.**

*The prayer ends with a suitable collect said by the priest or the following.*

Merciful Father,  
**Accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

*Or one of the forms printed in the Appendix.*

## **THE PEACE**

*The priest may introduce the Peace with a suitable sentence.*

*The following may be used.*

To crown all things there must be love.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*or:*

We have celebrated the love of N and N.

We now celebrate God's love for all of us.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*These words may be added.*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace*

*The couple may exchange a greeting of peace with each other, with their families, and with other members of the congregation.*

*[A hymn may be sung]*

THE OFFERTORY

THE THANKSGIVING

*One of the authorised Eucharistic Prayers is used.*

THE COMMUNION RITE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE

*(if not used earlier)*

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

GIVING OF COMMUNION

*[A hymn may be sung]*

THE SENDING OUT

*A Post Communion sentence may be used*

I give you a new commandment; love one another as I have loved you, says the Lord. *(John 13.34)*

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Gracious God,  
may N and N who have been bound together  
in these holy mysteries,  
become one in body and soul.  
May they live in faithfulness and peace  
and obtain those eternal joys  
prepared for all who love you;  
through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*The priest concludes the service with this or another suitable blessing:*  
God the Holy Trinity strengthen you in faith and hope and love, guide you in truth  
and peace and defend you on every side;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. (Alleluia, Alleluia!)  
**In the name of Christ. (Alleluia, Alleluia!)**



## DRAFT MARRIAGE SERVICE

(MAR 2) Feb 2010

### Structure

#### The Gathering

Welcome  
Collect

#### The Proclamation of the Word

Readings  
Homily

#### The Marriage

Declarations  
Vows  
Giving of Rings (Ring)  
Proclamation  
Blessing of the Marriage

#### The Prayers

Intercessions  
The Lord's Prayer  
Blessing

#### The Registration of the Marriage



## THE MARRIAGE SERVICE

### **The Gathering**

*A hymn may be sung.*

*The minister welcomes the people*

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

**Amen**

Grace and peace be with you.

**And keep you in the love of Christ**

*Or in Eastertide:*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*The congregation sit.*

*The bride and bridegroom remain standing.*

*The following or one of the alternative Introductions from the Appendix is used*

We have come together to witness the marriage of N and N, to pray for God's blessing upon them, to share their joy and to celebrate their love. Marriage is a gift of God through which husband and wife may grow together in the knowledge, love and service of God. It is given that, united with one another in heart, in mind and in body, they may increase in love and trust. God joins husband and wife in life-long union as the foundation of family life (in which children are born nurtured and) in which each member of the family, in good times and in bad, may find strength, companionship and comfort, and grow to maturity in love. Marriage enriches society and strengthens community.

Marriage is a way of life made holy by God, and blessed by the presence of Jesus in the marriage at Cana in Galilee, which all should uphold and honour. No one should enter into it lightly or selfishly, but reverently and responsibly in the sight of Almighty God. N and N are now to enter this way of life. They will each give their consent to the other and make solemn vows, and in token of this they will give and receive rings (a ring). We pray for them that the Holy Spirit will guide and strengthen them, that they may fulfil God's purposes for the whole of their earthly life together.

*The minister says to the congregation*

If you are aware of any reason why these persons may not lawfully marry, you must declare it now.

*The minister says to the couple*

N and N, you are about to make your marriage vows in the presence of God, who is judge of all and knows the secrets of our hearts; therefore if either of you knows any reason why you may not lawfully marry, you must declare it now.

*The minister invites the people to pray; silence is kept and the minister says the collect*

*Either:*

God our Father, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the Law. Grant to your servants N and N that, loving one another, they may remain in your love all the days of their life: through Jesus Christ our Lord to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all love and all glory for time and for eternity. **Amen**

*Or one of the alternatives in the Appendix*

### **The Proclamation of the Word**

#### **Readings**

*At least two readings from the Bible are used, one of which should be from the New Testament*

*A homily may follow the readings*

*A hymn may be sung.*

### **The Marriage**

#### **THE DECLARATIONS**

*The bride and bridegroom stand in front of the minister.*

*The minister says to the bridegroom*

N, will you take N to be your wife? Will you love her, comfort her, honour and care for her, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

*He answers*

I will.

*The minister says to the bride:*

N, will you take N to be your husband? Will you love him, comfort him, honour and care for him, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

*She answers:*

I will.

*The minister may say to the congregation:*

Will you, the families and friends of *N* and *N*, support and uphold them in their marriage now and in the years to come?

*All say;*

**We will.**

*The minister introduces the vows in these or similar words.*

*N* and *N*, You will now join hands and make your vows in the presence of God and his people.

*The bride and bridegroom face each other.*

*The bridegroom takes the bride's right hand in his, and says:*

I, *N*, take you, *N*,  
to be my wife,  
to have and to hold  
from this day forward;  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
to love and to cherish,  
as long as we both shall live,  
according to the will and purpose of God.  
In the presence of God I make this vow.

*They loose hands.*

*The bride takes the bridegroom's right hand in hers, and says:*

I, *N*, take you, *N*,  
to be my husband,  
to have and to hold  
from this day forward;  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
to love and to cherish,  
as long as we both shall live,  
according to the will and purpose of God.  
In the presence of God I make this vow.

*They loose hands.*

*The minister receives the rings (ring) and says this prayer:*

Heavenly Father, by your blessing let these rings (*this ring*) be to *N* and *N* a symbol of unending love and faithfulness, to remind them of the vow and covenant which they have made this day, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*The bride and bridegroom face each other. In turn each places a ring on the other's finger, and holding it there says:*

N, I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness. With my body I honour you, all that I am I give to you, and all that I have I share with you within the love of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*[Or, if only one ring is given, the one who receives it says:*

N, I receive this ring as a sign of the love and faithfulness between us. With my body I honour you, all that I am I give to you, and all that I have I share with you, within the love of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.]

*The minister addresses the people.*

In the presence of God, and before this congregation, N and N have given their consent and made their marriage vows to one another. They have declared their marriage by the joining of hands and by the giving and receiving of a *ring(s)*. I proclaim that they are therefore husband and wife.

*The minister joins their right hands together and says:*

Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

### **The Blessing of the Marriage**

*The husband and wife kneel, and the minister uses this or another suitable blessing.*

All praise and glory to you most gracious God,  
for in the beginning you created us in your own image, male and female.  
Grant your blessing we pray, to N and N,  
that in marriage they may be a source of blessing to each other and to all,  
and live together in holy love until their lives end.

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit,  
bless, preserve and keep you;  
the Lord mercifully look upon you with his favour;  
and fill you with all spiritual blessings and grace,  
that you may so live together in this life,  
that in the world to come you may have life everlasting. **Amen.**

### **The Registration of the Marriage**

The Registration of the Marriage may take place here or at the end of the service.

*An anthem or hymn may be sung*

## **The Intercessions**

*The prayers usually include the following themes*

- *Thanksgiving*
- *Spiritual growth*
- *Faithfulness, joy, love, forgiveness and healing*
- *Children, other family members and friends*

*Silence should be kept after each bidding.*

*Appropriate responses may be used, for example:*

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Lord, hear us,

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray to you, O Lord,

**Lord, have mercy.**

*Or one of the forms printed in the Appendix.*

*The prayers conclude with the Lord's Prayer.*

*Either:*

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name;**

**thy kingdom come;**

**thy will be done;**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation;**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**the power and the glory,**

**for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

*Or:*

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

*A hymn may be sung.*

*The minister concludes the service with this or another suitable blessing:*

God the Holy Trinity strengthen you in faith and hope and love, guide you in truth and peace and defend you on every side;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among *you* and remain with *you* always. **Amen.**

## **Notes to the Marriage Service**

### **1 Preparation**

It is the custom and practice of the Church in Wales to offer preparation for marriage for couples who are soon to be married, as well as to be available for support and counselling in the years that follow.

### **2 Legal Preliminaries**

A marriage according to the rites of the Church in Wales normally takes place after the publication of banns. The banns are to be published in the church at the principal service on three Sundays during the three months before the marriage and must be read in the following form:

“I publish the banns of marriage between *NN* of (this parish or the parish of..), and *NN* of (this parish or the parish of..). If any of you knows any reason why in law they may not marry each other you are to declare it. This is the *first / second / third* time of asking.

“We pray for these couples (or *N* and *M*) as they prepare for their wedding(s).”  
A suitable prayer may be said.

If those to be married live in different parishes, banns must be called in both parishes, and the minister of one parish shall not solemnize the marriage without the production of a Certificate of Banns from the minister of the other parish. The certificate must state that no impediment has been alleged. If the name of either of the persons to be married is on the Electoral Roll of a parish in which neither of them lives, the marriage may take place in that parish, provided that the banns have been published in that parish and in the parish or parishes in which they live.

If all civil and ecclesiastical conditions are satisfied, a common licence permitting the solemnization of matrimony without banns may be granted through a Surrogate. In exceptional circumstances, the Archbishop of Canterbury may grant a special licence which permits the solemnization without banns.

### **3 Entry**

The bride may enter the church alone, or escorted by her father or a representative of the family or a friend, or the bride and groom may enter church together.

### **4 Registration of the Marriage**

The law requires that the Registers be completed immediately after the solemnization of a marriage. This usually takes place at the end of the service, but may occur after the Blessing of the Marriage. The registers must be signed by both parties to the marriage, the officiating minister, and two witnesses to the marriage.

## **5 Holy Eucharist**

For communicant members of the Church it is appropriate that they receive communion soon after their marriage. For some this may make it appropriate for the marriage to take place within a Celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

## **6 Non-Biblical Readings**

At the discretion of the Minister, appropriate non-biblical readings may be included.

## **7 Ecumenical Provisions**

Where a minister of another Christian Church is to be invited to assist at the Solemnization of Matrimony, the Church in Wales minister who solemnizes the marriage must establish the absence of an impediment, direct the exchange of vows, declare the existence of the marriage, say the final blessing, and sign the registers.





# **Blessing of a Marriage following a Civil Ceremony**

**(MAR 3) Feb 2010**



## **Notes for the Blessing of a Marriage following a Civil Ceremony**

*When two persons have contracted a marriage at a Civil Ceremony and wish to receive the blessing of the Church upon their union, the minister shall ask them to produce the certificate of their marriage. If the minister is satisfied that their union is not contrary to the laws of the Church in Wales, they shall proceed in the form following.*

*Banns are not called nor any entry made in the Register of Marriages*

*Husband and wife may arrive wearing wedding ring(s), or if they have not been previously worn, they may be blessed and put on at the service.*

*Husband and wife should enter the church together and sit together at the front of the church.*

*Appropriate and alternative Intercessions and Prayers may be used which reflect the faith of the couple.*



# The Blessing of a Marriage following a Civil Ceremon

## **The Gathering**

*A hymn may be sung.*

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace and peace be with you  
**and keep you in the love of Christ.**

*Or in Eastertide*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*The Liturgy of Gathering from the Appendix may be used here*

## **Introduction**

*The congregation sit The couple remain standing..*

*Either:*

We have gathered in God's presence because N and N, who are already married, are seeking God's blessing on their marriage.

Marriage is God's gift to his people, so that husband and wife will discover his grace in their life together. Marriage is the foundation of family life, where children are nurtured and all members of the family find love and strength, companionship and comfort, respect and wholeness.

Marriage is a life long union between a man and a woman where, united in body, mind and spirit, their love may be holy, reflecting the love Christ has for his Church.

It also enriches society and strengthens the whole community, bringing stability and commitment to a world that is often fragile and divided.

Therefore, marriage should be honoured, respected and revered by all people, and those who give themselves to one another in marriage should only do so after great thought and with hearts full of love and commitment to this particular way of life.

*Or:*

We have come together in joy because N and N who are already married to each other, want to ask God's blessing on their marriage. Marriage is a gift of God through which husband and wife may grow together in the knowledge, love and service of God so that, united with one another in heart, body and mind, they may increase in love and trust. God joins husband and wife in life-long union as the foundation of family life (in which children are born and nurtured) and in which each member of the family, in good times and in bad, may find strength, companionship

and comfort, and grow to maturity in love. Marriage enriches society and strengthens community.

Marriage is a way of life made holy by God, which all should uphold and honour. No one should enter into it lightly or selfishly, but reverently and responsibly in the sight of Almighty God. N and N are now to enter this way of life. We pray with them that the Holy Spirit will guide and strengthen them, that they may fulfil God's purpose for the whole of their earthly life together.

*Or an Introduction from the Appendix.*

*The minister then addresses the couple.*

Is this your understanding of the covenant and promise that you have made to one another when you were married and for which you are now asking God's blessing?

*They answer:*

**It is.**

*The minister addresses the people*

N and N have affirmed their Christian understanding of marriage. Do you, their family and friends, promise to support and encourage them in their life together?

*They answer:*

**We do.**

*The minister may then address the couple.*

The Lord stands at the door and knocks.

By asking for God's blessing on your marriage,  
you have invited him into your life together  
and have offered him a place to live.

May the love he brings fill your hearts and home  
with a passion for the gospel  
and a love of his way,  
so that your life together may reveal his presence  
and show others how to follow Christ.

*(Suitable for those whose wedding was a significant time ago.)*

For years you have lived and loved,  
joined together in marriage,  
and now you have come to seek God's continued blessing.

He has been with you in good times and bad,  
in difficulties and dangers,  
in laughter and sorrow.

Now you open your heart and home to him,  
so that Christ may be seen and known.

You offer him your marriage  
for him to bless and make holy,  
that you may continue to grow together in love.

### **Collect**

Let us pray.

*Either:*

*The collect from the Marriage Service*

*Or one of the alternatives in the Appendix.*

### **The Proclamation of the Word**

*The Ministry of the Word as set out in the Order for Holy Matrimony is used.*

### **Homily**

#### **The Dedication**

*The couple stand in front of the minister.*

*The minister says to the man:*

N. you have taken N. as your wife. Will you live with her in obedience to Christ's command? Will you continue to love her, honour her and care for her, for better and for worse, for richer and for poorer, in sickness and in health? Will you be faithful to her, and her alone, as long as you both shall live?

*The man answers:*

**I will.**

*The minister says to the woman:*

N. you have taken N. as your husband. Will you live with him in obedience to Christ's command? Will you continue to love him, honour him and care for him, for better and for worse, for richer and for poorer, in sickness and in health? Will you be faithful to him, and him alone, as long as you both shall live?

*The woman answers:*

**I will.**

*The couple may then say together:*

*Either:*

Heavenly Father,  
we offer you all that we are  
and all that we hope to be.  
We offer you our love for one another  
and our life together.  
Help us to live as you desire,  
that we may grow together  
in love and peace  
all the days of our life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Or:

Father,  
we offer you our love for one another,  
and our life together,  
our dreams and desires,  
our hopes and ambitions,  
our past and present and future.  
Help us to discover you in our marriage,  
on which we ask your blessing;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Prayer over the Ring(s)**

*If a ring is worn the couple may hold out the hand on which they wear their wedding ring(s) for the ring(s) to be blessed. The following may be used:*

Either:

Father, your endless love enfolds and embraces us  
through the gentle play of your Spirit  
and the outstretched arms of your Son.  
May these rings (*this ring*) be a symbol of N and N's love and faithfulness  
towards one another and a call to keep the promises they have made in your  
presence.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Or:

When you were married, these rings (*this ring*) you now wear were (*or: was*)  
exchanged as a sign of your love and faithfulness to one another. May they  
(*or: it*) continue to be a sign of the promises you have made, and the marriage  
you have asked God to bless.

Or:

An alternative prayer from the appendix.

**The Blessing of the Couple**

*The couple kneel in front of the minister who blesses them*

Either:

All praise and glory to you most gracious God, for in the beginning you created us in  
your own image, male and female. Grant your blessing we pray, to N and N, that in  
marriage they may be a source of blessing to each other and to all, and live together  
in holy love.

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve and keep you; the  
Lord mercifully with his favour look upon you; and fill you with all spiritual  
benediction and grace, that you may so live together in this life, that in the world to  
come you may have life everlasting. **Amen.**

*Or an alternative from the Appendix.*

*A hymn may be sung.*

**Prayers/Intercessions**

*The prayers from the Marriage Service may be used, or it may be more appropriate to choose other prayers that reflect the life, faith and circumstances of the couple. See the Appendix.*

*The prayers may end with an appropriate conclusion such as:*

Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*Or, if the Holy Eucharist is not to be celebrated, the prayers conclude with the Lord's Prayer.*

**Our Father....**

*If the Eucharist is to be celebrated, the Liturgy continues with the Peace.  
Otherwise it ends with the following:*

**The Blessing**

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you**

*Either:*

God the Holy Trinity strengthen you in faith and hope and love,  
guide you in truth and peace  
and defend you on every side;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Or an alternative from the Appendix.*

*A hymn may be sung.*



## **APPENDIX OF SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL**

*The Appendix contains various alternative items and suggestions for both the Marriage Service and the Blessing of a Civil Marriage.*

### **A Liturgy of Gathering**

*Bride or Groom:*

We stand here today in the presence of so many people who have coloured the landscape of our lives, people who have accompanied us on our journey. We welcome you and thank you for being with us today.

**All:                    May the Lord be with you on this joyful day.**

*Bride or Groom:*

We thank our parents and families who have nurtured and nourished us, and helped to make us who we are. We welcome you and thank you for all you have given us.

**Parents and/or Family Members:**

**May the Lord be with you in your life together.**

*Bride or Groom:*

We stand in sorrow for all the friendships we have left behind, and all the mistakes we have made, and ask for God's grace and forgiveness to flourish in our lives.

**Minister:**        May the Lord be with you and give you the confidence and courage to embrace his love.

*Bride or Groom:*

We stand here today in the presence of God, who has poured his love upon us, to ask for his blessing upon our marriage.

*Silence*

*The minister then continues with the words of introduction.*

### **Alternative Introductions to the Marriage Rite**

*These may be adapted for use with the Blessing of a Civil Marriage by using the words indicated in italics, by omitting the request for impediments to Marriage, and asking the couple if this is their understanding of Holy Matrimony.*

**I.**

God calls us all to live together in love, to draw closer to one another in respect and tolerance, in openness and honesty, to embrace his desire for the world and to create a community where Christ is at the heart of all we do and say.

Within that calling and covenant of love, God has blessed us with the gift of marriage, where husband and wife grow together to know God with one mind, to love him with one heart, to serve him with one spirit. Marriage is the foundation of family life and it is God's will that children are born and nurtured within this loving,

life long embrace of their parents. Within this family each person should find strength and sustenance, care and comfort for every circumstance of life. Through this gift of marriage, God desires to strengthen the whole community, bringing blessings to all.

Since God has graced us with such a gift, marriage should be revered and respected by all. No one should embrace marriage without deep, considerate thought and awareness of all it entails. N. and N. have chosen to embrace this gift from God. We pray for them that the Spirit of God will guide and strengthen them so that his gift will flourish in their lives and, through them, to the whole community.

If there is a valid reason why they should not be joined together in marriage you must declare it now.

*The minister then addresses the couple*

If you know any reason why, according to the law of the land or of this church, you may not be joined together in marriage you must now make it known.

## **II.**

God lavishes his gifts upon us, filling us with his love, and calling us to live together to create a community where all are respected. Marriage is one of these gifts. It is given so that a man and a woman may pledge themselves to one another in a covenant of love, promising to live together for the rest of their lives. Marriage is the foundation of family life and the means through which God brings joy and stability to society, calling husband and wife to live according to his plan for the world, providing children with a loving home, where all within the family grow to know God and his love for them. Marriage should therefore be held in honour by all.

N and N. stand before God, offering themselves to one another in marriage, asking God to bless their marriage. They do this after much thought and consideration. They also stand before you, their friends and family, inviting you to share their joy, and to encourage them in the way of life to which they have been called.

If there is any reason why you believe they should not be joined together you should now make it known

*The minister then addresses the couple*

If you know any reason why, according to the law of the land or of this church, you may not be joined together in marriage you must now make it known.

## **III.**

In the beginning, God formed the earth and created the heavens. He breathed life into all living creatures, making man and woman in his own image. He has called us to live together in his covenant of love, bound together by his own promises. In marriage he has blessed his creation with a sign of love, and through the joys of married life he continues to bring order to the chaos of the world. Marriage provides family life with a firm foundation, and a loving embrace into which children are born and nurtured.

As we celebrate his creative love in this sacramental sign we pray that the breath of his Spirit may fill the lives of N and N, so that, bound by the promises they make, they will reveal the presence of Christ and serve him with faith and love.

If there is a valid reason why they should not be joined together in marriage you must declare it now.

*The minister then addresses the couple*

If you know any reason why, according to the law of the land or of this church, you may not be joined together in marriage you must now make it known.

## ***Alternative Introductions to the Blessing of a Marriage following a Civil Ceremony***

### ***I.***

God calls us all to live together in love, to draw closer to one another in respect and tolerance, in openness and honesty, to embrace his desire for the world and to create a community where Christ is at the heart of all we do and say.

Within that calling and covenant of love, God has blessed us with the gift of marriage, where husband and wife grow together to know God with one mind, to love him with one heart, to serve him with one spirit. Marriage is the foundation of family life and it is God's will that children are born and nurtured within this loving, life long embrace of their parents. Within this family each person should find strength and sustenance, care and comfort for every circumstance of life. Through this gift of marriage, God desires to strengthen the whole community, bringing blessings to all.

Since God has graced us with such a gift, marriage should be revered and respected by all. No one should embrace marriage without deep, considerate thought and awareness of all it entails. N and N have already embraced this gift from God and now ask God to bless their marriage. We pray for them that the Spirit of God will guide and strengthen them so that his gift will flourish in their lives and, through them, to the whole community.

### ***II.***

God lavishes his gifts upon us, filling us with his love, and calling us to live together to create a community where all are respected. Marriage is one of these gifts. It is given so that a man and a woman may pledge themselves to one another in a covenant of love, promising to live together for the rest of their lives. Marriage is the foundation of family life and the means through which God brings joy and stability to society, calling husband and wife to live according to his plan for the world, providing children with a loving home, where all within the family grow to know God and his love for them. Marriage should therefore be held in honour by all.

N and N. stand before God as a married couple asking God to bless their marriage. They do this after much thought and consideration. They also stand before you, their friends and family, inviting you to share their joy, and to encourage them in the way of life to which they have been called.

### ***III.***

In the beginning, God formed the earth and created the heavens. He breathed life into all living creatures, making man and woman in his own image. He has called us to live together in his covenant of love, bound together by his own promises. In Marriage he has blessed his creation with a sign of love, and through the joys of married life he continues to bring order to the chaos of the world. Marriage provides family life with a firm foundation, and a loving embrace into which children are born and nurtured.

As we celebrate his creative love in this sacramental sign we pray that the breath of his Spirit may fill the lives of N and N. so that bound by the promises they have already made they will reveal the presence of Christ and serve him with faith and love.

### **Collects**

1. Almighty God, all hearts are open to you,  
no secrets are hidden from you.  
Purify us with the fire of your Holy Spirit  
that we may love and worship you faithfully;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
  
2. God our Father,  
through times and seasons and the turning of the years,  
through prophets and patriarchs and holy men and women  
you have revealed your plan for the world.  
In Christ your plan is made clear,  
calling us to love one another as he has loved us.  
As we celebrate N and N's love for one another  
and rejoice in their life together,  
let their love flourish and blossom  
and their lives reveal the spring time of your kingdom,  
where all things are made new and brought to completion.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
  
3. God our Father,  
through the gentle flame of the Spirit  
Christ has come to make his home with us  
to warm our hearts and make his presence known to others.  
May the marriage of N and N to one another  
be a sign of how we are called to live,  
filled with joy and holiness  
and delighting in all that Christ has taught us.  
We ask this in the name of Christ the Lord. **Amen.**
  
4. Loving Father,  
you perfect our inadequacies and complete our joy,  
you fulfil our needs and fill us with a desire to love.  
Let your love now flow through our lives  
as our hearts swell with joy on this wedding day.  
May we be given a sign of the presence of Jesus, the unseen guest,  
and drink the new wine of your kingdom.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

5. *(Not to be used with alternative introduction III.)*  
God our Father,  
in the beginning you formed the earth and created the heavens,  
and breathed life into all living creatures,  
making man and woman in your own image.  
You call us to live together in your covenant of love,  
bound together by the promises you have made.  
In marriage you bless your creation with a sign of your love,  
and through the joys of married life  
you continue to bring order to the chaos of the world.  
As we celebrate your creative love in this sacramental sign  
breathe your life upon N. and N.  
so that bound by the promises they make  
they will reveal the presence of your Son  
and serve you with faith and love.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
6. Loving Father,  
in your gift of marriage to the world  
you give us a sign of your loving embrace  
to all who desire to follow the way of your Son.  
Through N and N's life together  
may the outstretched arms of Christ reach out to all they meet  
and give a sign of your presence in the world;  
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
7. Father,  
your gift of love, above all other things,  
brings harmony and peace to the world:  
its faith has no bounds, its hope has no limits,  
it endures all things and delights in the truth.  
As we celebrate N and N's love for one another  
and rejoice in the vows they have made (*or: are to make*)  
may they be clothed in the garments of love  
and be filled with the joy of knowing your presence in their lives.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
8. Lord of life and Giver of joy,  
as we gather to celebrate the marriage of N and N,  
you call us to feast on your word,  
and drink the new wine of your kingdom.  
May the marriage we celebrate  
be a sign of the everlasting banquet of your Son  
where we rejoice in your presence forever  
our King and our God. **Amen.**

## **The Ministry of the Word**

Readings may be taken from one of the following sets of readings which are arranged by theme.

### A Journey

Ruth 1.16-18

Tobit 8. 5b-8

Ephesians 3.14-19

Luke 12, 22-31

Luke 12. 32-34

Where you go, I will go

May we grow old together

May Christ dwell in your hearts

Do not worry about your life

Simple treasure

### B Love

Song of Songs 2. 8-14

Song of Songs 8. 6-7

I Corinthians 12. 31-13.13

Colossians 3. 12-17

I John 4. 7-16

Luke 7. 36-38

My love, my fair one

Many waters cannot quench love

The greatest is love

The love which binds together

Love is from God

Love and gratitude

### C Joy

Philippians 4. 4-9

John 2. 1-11

Joyful in God

A wedding feast

### D Companionship

Ecclesiastes 4. 9-12

Romans 12. 4-13

Ephesians 4. 1-6

Mark 10. 6-9, 13-16

Two have a good reward

Sharing in love

The bond of peace

The new home

### E God

Genesis 1. 26-29a, 31a

Jeremiah 31. 31-34

Philippians 1. 9-11

John 15. 1-8

Made in God's image

I their God, they my people

Love that overflows

Bearing fruit

## F Faith

Ecclesiastes 3. 1-8

I John 3. 18-24

Revelation 19. 6-19

Matthew 5. 2-11

Matthew 7. 21, 24-27

A time for everything

Love in truth and action

The celebratory feast

The true blessed

Hearing and doing

## G Family

Genesis 12. 1-3

Ephesians 3. 14-19, (20)

Mark 10. 6-9 (10-12) 13-16

The families of the earth

Every family in Heaven and on earth

What God has joined together

### ***Alternative Prayers/Declaration over the Rings***

1. May the rings you wear be a symbol of unending love and faithfulness, a sign of your shared lives and the honour you have for each other.
2. May these rings you have exchanged continue to be a sign of unending love, and remind you that you are one flesh, bound together in a holy covenant, where love has no end, and God's presence has no bounds.

### ***Prayers of Blessings over the Couple***

*One of the following prayers may be used, ending with*

...and may God bless you and keep you, fill you with his grace, and bring you to the joy of everlasting life. **Amen**

1. When you wake and when you sleep,  
when you work and when you rest,  
when you agree and when you fail to agree,  
when you are together and when you are apart,  
when you are at home and when you are far away,  
may Christ come surround you  
and unite you in his love.
2. May your home be lit with the love of God,  
so that when it is dark his love will glow and dispel the shadows of the night

May the doors of your hearts always be open,  
so that Christ is welcomed and given a home.

May your home be warmed by the gentle flame of the Spirit,  
so that your love for each other will always be alive and full of passion.

3. When your house is filled with laughter  
or when it is sad and low,  
may you always be aware of the Lord's presence  
who comes to make his home with you.
4. May all who pass through the doors of your home  
be touched by the love that you have for one another.

May all whom you call family find a place where they discover how to love  
and have the freedom to live as God desires.

May all who sit at your table be nourished by the love of Christ  
who welcomes all who are in need.

5. May God the Father bring his blessing to your home.  
May Christ fill your hearts with love that overflows.  
May the Spirit enfold you in his love and knit you together as one.

6. May your love for each other be exclusive;  
but never exclude those who are in need.

May your love for each other be precious;  
but never fail to burn in the ordinary situations of life.

May your love for each other grow and mature;  
but never forget the foundations of your life together.

### ***Intercessions***

I.

Gracious God we pray for N and N and give thanks that you have brought them together in marriage.

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer**

Help them (to be wise and loving parents and) to grow together in faithfulness and honesty, in mutual support and patience.

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer**

Make their life together a sign of your love in this broken world; may forgiveness heal injury and joy triumph over sorrow.

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer**

Be with them in their work and renew them in their leisure.

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer**

May they welcome into their home both friends and strangers and so reflect your Son's love for all people.

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer**

In all their future together may they enjoy each other's lives and grow through the love they share.

These things we ask through Christ our Lord

**Amen**

2.

Faithful God,  
holy and eternal,  
source of life and spring of love,  
we thank and praise you for bringing *N* and *N* to this day,  
and we pray for them.  
Lord of life and love:  
**hear our prayer.**

May their marriage be life-giving and life-long,  
enriched by your presence and strengthened by your grace;  
may they bring comfort and confidence to each other  
in faithfulness and trust.  
Lord of life and love:  
**hear our prayer.**

May the hospitality of their home  
bring refreshment and joy to all around them;  
may their love overflow to neighbours in need  
and embrace those in distress.  
Lord of life and love:  
**hear our prayer.**

May they discern in your word  
order and purpose for their lives;  
and may the power of your Holy Spirit  
lead them in truth and defend them in adversity.  
Lord of life and love:  
**hear our prayer.**

May they nurture their family with devotion,  
see their children grow in body, mind and spirit  
and come at last to the end of their lives  
with hearts content and in joyful anticipation of heaven.  
Lord of life and love:  
**hear our prayer.**

3

Filled with joy for N and N, let us pray for their life together.

May their love for each other be their food and drink.

May their respect for each other be the source of their joy.

Lord of hearth and home,

or

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer this day.**

**Hear our prayer.**

May their understanding of each other be the foundation of forgiveness.

May their passion for each other be a flame that brings light in the darkness.

Lord of hearth and home,

**Hear our prayer this day.**

May their commitment to each other be their security.

May their faith in Christ be the focal point of their house and home.

Lord of hearth and home,

**Hear our prayer this day.**

May their openness to each other be a source of peace.

May their honesty bring harmony to the difficulties they encounter.

Lord of hearth and home,

**Hear our prayer this day.**

May the Lord always have a place within their home.

May he have a say in all they do

Lord of hearth and home

**Hear our prayer this day.**

*If the Service takes place within the Liturgy of the Eucharist then the Intercessions are concluded with a suitable prayer and the liturgy continues with the peace.*

Christ draws us closer to the Father, in an intimate communion of love, and so in his words we raise our voices in prayer: **Our Father...**

4 Let us pray for N and N. that throughout their married life together they may always keep the promises they have made.

May the walls of their home offer them security and stability but never shut out the concerns of the world.

Lord God, giver of all that is good.

**Hear our prayer.**

May the lights of their home glow with a love that invites and lights up the lives of all who pass by.

Lord God, giver of all that is good.

**Hear our prayer**

May the doors of their home be open to all who come in the name of the Lord, where they are welcomed with generous warmth and undying love.

Lord of all that is good.

**Hear our prayer.**

May their children be nurtured in love, so that their family life will inspire the whole community with an example of what it means to follow the Lord.

Lord of all that is good.

**Hear our prayer.**

*If the Service takes place within the Liturgy of the Eucharist then the Intercessions are concluded with a suitable prayer and the liturgy continues with the Peace.*

May their life together be a sign of the loving embrace of the Lord who has poured his Spirit into our hearts crying, 'Abba, Father,' so that we can raise our voices with one heart and mind, and say together: **Our Father...**

## **Final Blessings**

1. Glory and praise to you, Lord God,  
you have shown us how to love in the giving of your Son  
and poured your Spirit into our hearts  
who draws us closer to you.  
Fill us with a love for all that you have made,  
and, in our joy and celebrations,  
may we discover the beauty of your love and the brilliance of your light.  
We ask this through Jesus the Lord. Amen.

2. The Lord be with you.

### **And also with you**

In his great love,  
God has blessed you with the gift of his Son,  
whose outstretched arms reach out to all who open their hearts to him.  
May the love that Christ has commanded us to embrace  
overflow into the lives of all whom you meet.

And the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

