

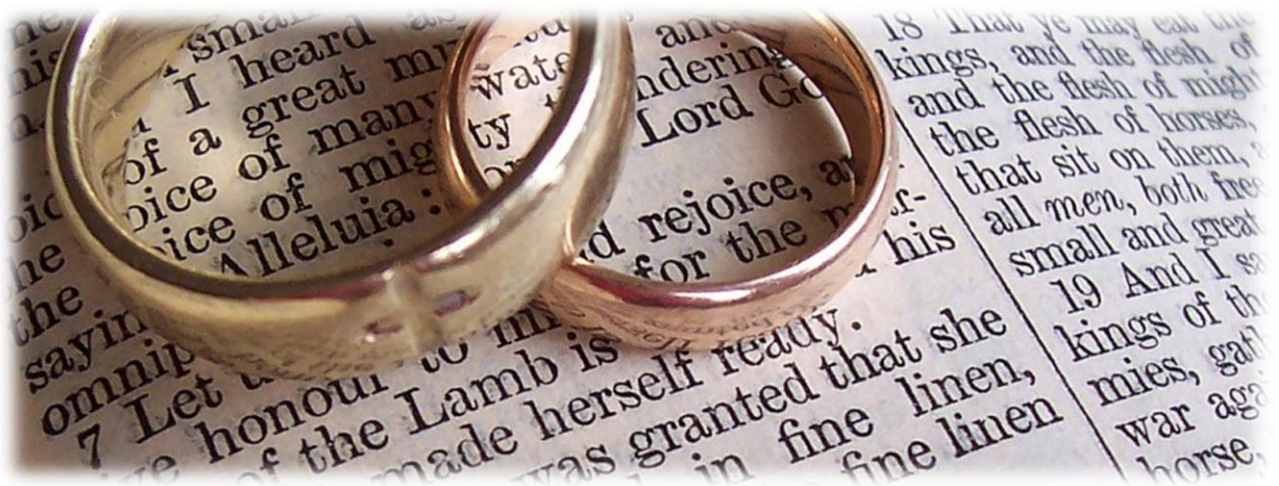


**ST PATRICK'S
PARISH**
Singleton



**ST BRIGID'S
PARISH**
BRANXTON AND GRETA

Preparing for a Catholic Marriage in St Patrick's Parish, Singleton and St Brigid's Parish, Branxton



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Welcome

Congratulations on your engagement and thank you for taking the first step in considering a Catholic marriage ceremony as you commit to love and honor each other as man and wife for the rest of your lives in a permanent, exclusive and mutual love relationship. In marriage couples devote themselves to God through commitment to each other and then in turn to their family life.

Your wedding day will involve many preparations of many different kinds. At the heart of the day is the actual celebration of your marriage. This booklet will give you material to prepare a Catholic marriage ceremony which is just right for you and your families. The priest or deacon who celebrates your wedding with you will help you in this process.

Don't let your wedding get in the way of your marriage. The wedding is over in a day; the marriage lasts a lifetime.

The Catholic Wedding Ceremony

A Catholic marriage ceremony may either be a 'Nuptial Mass' or a 'Wedding Ceremony', and must be witnessed by a Priest or a Deacon. The sacrament of Marriage is important for the wider community because it reminds us of the faithful, never-ending love that God has for humanity and highlights the giving-unto-death love that was so much a part of Jesus' living and dying.

- At least one of the couple must be a Catholic.
- Both parties must be free to marry in the eyes of the church and civil authorities. (If there are concerns in this area you need to discuss this with a priest or deacon).

A wedding in the Catholic Church is celebrated 'according to the Rites of the Roman Catholic Church'. You do not need to start from scratch, nor from the choices your friends have made for their weddings. This booklet provides you with the texts and rites in the Catholic liturgy. You can select those which will make your wedding appropriate and personal.

One of the first choices you will consider is whether to celebrate the rite of marriage within a Mass. For two Catholics a Mass is a good option because the Eucharist is the highest expression of our unity with one another and with Christ.

Where one of the spouses is not a Catholic or where a significant part of the gathering of family and friends is not Catholic, the sign of unity and communion can become a sign of separation. Then it is often better to celebrate the rite of marriage with the Liturgy of the Word and omit the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Sometimes it will be a good idea to incorporate a particular ethnic custom which relates to your cultural background. Discuss such suggestions with your parents and grandparents before bringing proposals to the priest or deacon who is celebrating the wedding.

Choose carefully when selecting people to take on a role or ministry within your ceremony. For example: People need to hear and understand the Scripture readings and the intercessions. So good readers are essential.

Celebrating your Marriage in St Patrick's Parish

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

Your meeting with the Parish Priest or the celebrant who will marry you will need to be conducted at least 1 month and 1 day before the date of your wedding. You will need to present originals of the following:

- Copies of FULL birth certificates for both parties.
- A RECENT copy of Certificate of Baptism. These are essential in the case of Catholics and are desirable in the case of non-Catholics. You can contact the parish office where you were baptised for a copy.
- ANY OTHER PAPERS: nationalisation, change of name, divorce and annulment decrees.

IF YOU LIVE OUTSIDE THE PARISH

If you do not live in the Singleton or Branxton Parish you will need to obtain permission from your local Parish Priest to be married outside your home Parish. You can do this by contacting your local Parish office and have them write you a letter of permission.

IF YOU ARE USING YOUR OWN PRIEST OR DEACON

If you are using your own Priest or Deacon to perform your marriage they will need to make contact our Parish Priest as a courtesy. If they are not from the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese they will need to contact the Bishop's Office on 4979 1111 to complete the necessary paperwork for authorisation.

MARRIAGE EDUCATION

Before a wedding in a Catholic church, all couples will be asked to reflect on their commitment to each other and to prepare for married life. Sometimes you may have a series of discussions with the priest or deacon, in our Diocese you will attend the "Before We Say I Do" course run by CatholicCare. You can contact them on 4979 1172 to book.

VIEWING THE CHURCH

Please contact the Parish Office on 5507 4048 to arrange viewing of the churches. St Patrick's Church in Singleton is available to you during daylight hours. Other churches in our Parish are locked and will require someone to meet you there.

MUSIC

The choice of religious music and/or hymns is very important to the tone of the celebration. The payment of instrumentalist(s), if in attendance, is the responsibility of the couple. You should speak with the celebrant before the ceremony to discuss music options.

FLOWERS

Flowers are the responsibility of the couple. In most churches there is a small committee of ladies that enjoy preparing the church for your special day. They see this as a way of showing the communities love and care for you. Please contact the Parish office to arrange how you will organise the flowers; usually if you provide the flowers the church ladies will arrange them for you.

CONFETTI

We ask that you refrain from using confetti, rice or flower petals inside or outside the church as it is very difficult to clean up.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Individual priests may have different ideas on where and when photographers can take photographs within the Church. It is advisable to discuss this matter with the priest celebrating the wedding and to encourage the photographer to also contact the celebrant.

FEES

The fees for marriage in our parishes are set by two bodies. These amounts are a recommended donation. So, if you think you will have trouble with the donation please speak to the priest, equally you may wish to give more than the recommendation.

The ceremony fee is \$200 and is set across the Diocese as a donation to the support of all clergy. It is not a personal gift to the priest who celebrated the wedding - any personal token of appreciation is above and beyond this fee. If you are bringing your own Priest, then please discuss this with him.

We also ask for a donation to the parish. For a wedding within one of our sacred spaces this is set at \$250. For a wedding at another location the fee is set at \$350. This money goes towards the cost of maintaining the church, as well as the time taken to complete the paperwork necessary for your wedding.

WEDDING CERTIFICATE

On the day of your marriage you will receive a commemorative certificate. This is not a document you can use for the purpose of changing your name at government agencies. You will need to contact Births, Deaths and Marriages to obtain a copy of your marriage certificate. Please allow two weeks after your marriage before applying.

Acknowledgement

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Outlines of the Rite

Celebrating Matrimony within Mass

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Stand Reception of the Couple / Entrance Procession 🎵
Greeting
Introduction
Collect

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sit First Reading
Responsorial Psalm
[Second Reading]
Stand Gospel Acclamation
Gospel
Sit Homily

THE CELEBRATION OF MATRIMONY

Stand Introduction
Questions before Consent
Consent
Reception of the Consent
Blessing and Giving on Rings
[Hymn or Canticle of Praise] 🎵
The Universal Prayer

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Sit Preparation of the Offerings 🎵
Stand Prayer over the Offerings
The Eucharistic Prayer
Preface
Kneel Commemoration of the Couple
Acclamations
Holy, Holy, Holy 🎵
Memorial Acclamation 🎵
Amen 🎵
Stand The Communion Rite
Lord's Prayer
Nuptial Blessing
Sign of Peace
Kneel Breaking of the Bread 🎵
Communion
Communion Procession 🎵
Sit Period of Silence or Song of Praise 🎵
Stand Prayer after Communion

THE CONCLUSION OF THE CELEBRATION

Sit Blessing
Signing of the Register 🎵
Stand Recession 🎵

Celebrating Matrimony without Mass

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Stand Reception of the Couple / Entrance Procession 🎵
Greeting
Introduction
Collect

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sit First Reading
Responsorial Psalm
[Second Reading]
Stand Gospel Acclamation
Gospel
Sit Homily

THE CELEBRATION OF MATRIMONY

Stand Introduction
Questions before Consent
Consent
Reception of the Consent
Blessing and Giving on Rings
[Hymn or Canticle of Praise] 🎵
The Universal Prayer

Lord's Prayer
Nuptial Blessing

THE CONCLUSION OF THE CELEBRATION

Sit Blessing
Signing of the Register 🎵
Stand Recession 🎵

Choosing Prayers and Readings

RECEPTION OF THE COUPLE AND ENTRANCE PROCESSION

Choose or adapt one of the following:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| OCM45-47
OCM 80-82
OCM 153 | 1. The minister receives the bride and groom and the rest of the bridal party at the door of the church, greeting them warmly. Led by the servers, the minister enters the church, followed by the bridal party and then the bride and groom. Music or singing accompanies the procession. |
| OCM 48-50
OCM 83-85 | 2. The minister goes to the sanctuary. The bridal party enters followed by the bride and groom. Music or signing accompanies the procession. The minister receives them, greeting them warmly. |
3. Traditionally in Australia, the minister goes to the sanctuary where the groom and groomsmen are waiting. The bride enters on the arm of her father, led by the bridesmaids. Music or singing accompanies the procession. The minister receives them, greeting them warmly. The father hands the bride to the groom.
4. In consultation with the priest or deacon, you may adapt these forms. Perhaps, for example, the groom can welcome the bride with the minister at the door of the church and then both enter the church together accompanied by the rest of the bridal party. Or the bride and groom who arrive together can be escorted into the church by both set of parents.

INTRODUCTION

These are sample texts. The minister may use other words.

- | | |
|------------|---|
| OCM 52, 87 | We have come rejoicing into the house of the Lord
for this celebration, dear brothers and sisters,
and now we stand with N. and N.
on the day they intend to form a home of their own.
For them this is a moment of unique importance.
So let us support them
with our affection,
with our friendship,
and with our prayer as their brothers and sisters.
Let us listen attentively with them
to the word that God speaks to us today.
Then, with holy Church,
let us humbly pray to God the Father,
through Christ our Lord,
for this couple, his servants,
that he lovingly accept them,
bless them,
and make them always one. |
|------------|---|

OCM 53, 88 N. and N., the Church shares your joy
and warmly welcomes you,
together with your families and friends,
as today,
in the presence of God our Father,
you establish between yourselves
a lifelong partnership.
May the Lord hear you on this your joyful day.
May he send you help from heaven and protect you.
May he grant you your hearts' desire
and fulfil every one of your prayers.

OCM 154 N. and N., the Church shares your joy
and warmly welcomes you,
together with your families and friends,
as today you establish between yourselves
a lifelong partnership.
For believers God is the source of love and fidelity, because
God is love.
So let us listen attentively to his word,
and let us humbly pray to him,
that he may grant you your hearts' desire
and fulfil every one of your prayers.

*For a Catholic marrying
a catechumen or non-
Christian*

COLLECT

OCM 223 O God, who consecrated the bond of Marriage
Missal 1243 by so great a mystery
that in the wedding covenant you foreshadow
the Sacrament of Christ and his Church,
grant, we pray, to these your servants,
that what they receive in faith
they may live out in deeds.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

*Not used with first
Nuptial Blessing*

OCM 224 O God, who in creating the human race
Missal 1236 willed that man and wife should be one,
join, we pray, in a bond of inseparable love
these your servants who are to be united in the covenant of
Marriage,
so that, as you make their love fruitful,
they may become, by your grace, witnesses to charity itself.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

OCM 225 OCM 89 Missal 1243	<p>Be attentive to our prayers, O Lord, and in your kindness pour out your grace on these your servants (N. and N.), that, coming together before your altar, they may be confirmed in love for one another. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.</p>
OCM 226 Missal 1249	<p>Grant, we pray, almighty God, that these your servants, now to be joined by the Sacrament of Matrimony, may grow in the faith they profess and enrich your Church with faithful offspring. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.</p>
OCM 227 Missal 1235	<p>Be attentive to our prayers, O Lord, and in your kindness uphold what you have established for the increase of the human race, so that the union you have created may be kept safe by your assistance. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.</p>
OCM 228 Missal 1249	<p>O God, who since the beginning of the world have blessed the increase of offspring, show favour to our supplications and pour forth the help of your blessing on these your servants (N. and N.), so that in the union of Marriage they may be bound together in mutual affection, in likeness of mind, and in shared holiness. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.</p>

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The readings here are divided into 'First Reading' and 'Second Reading'. The marriage rite may have either one or two readings with the psalm and gospel. When no second reading is chosen, the first reading may be taken from either list.

FIRST READING (Old Testament)

OCM 179 Lect III 263	Gen 1:26-28, 31a A reading from the book of Genesis	<i>Male and female he created them.</i>
	<p>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.'</p> <p>God created man in the image of himself, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them.</p> <p>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.</p>	
OCM 180 Lect III 264	Gen 2:18-24 A reading from the book of Genesis	<i>They become one body.</i>
	<p>The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them; each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed: 'This at last is bone from my bones, and flesh from my flesh! This is to be called woman, for this was taken from man.' This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.</p>	
OCM 181 Lect III 265	Gen 24:48-51, 58-67 A reading from the book of Genesis	<i>Isaac loved Rebekah, and so he was consoled for the loss of his mother.</i>
	<p>Abraham's servant said to Laban, 'I blessed the Lord, God of my master Abraham, who had so graciously led me to choose the daughter of my master's brother for his son. Now tell me whether you are prepared to show kindness and goodness to my master; if not, say so, and I shall know what to do.'</p> <p>Laban and Bethuel replied, 'This is from the Lord; it is not in our power to say yes or no to you. Rebekah is there before you. Take her and go; and let her become the wife of your master's son, as the Lord has decreed.' They called Rebekah and asked her, 'Do you want to leave with this man?' 'I do,' she replied. Accordingly they let their sister Rebekah go, with her nurse,</p>	

and Abraham's servant and his men. They blessed Rebekah in these words:

'Sister of ours,
increase to thousands and tens of thousands!
May your descendants gain possession
of the gates of their enemies!'

Rebekah and her servants stood up, mounted the camels, and followed the man. The servant took Rebekah and departed.

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

OCM 182
Lect III 266

Tb 7:6-14
A reading from the book of Tobit

*The Lord of heaven
favours you, my child,
and grants you his
grace and peace.*

Raquel kissed Tobias and wept. Then finding words, he said, 'Blessings on you, child! You are the son of a noble father. How sad it is that someone so virtuous and full of good deeds should have gone blind!' He fell on the neck of his kinsman Tobias and wept. And his wife Edna wept for him, and so did his daughter Sarah. Raguel killed a sheep from the flock, and they gave Tobias and Raphael a warm-hearted welcome.

They washed and bathed and sat down to table. Then Tobias said to Raphael, 'Brother Azarias, will you ask Raguel to give me my sister Sarah.' Raguel overheard the words, and said to the young man, 'Eat and drink, and make the most of your evening; no one else has the right to take my daughter Sarah – no one but you, my brother. In any case I, for my own part, am not at liberty to give her to anyone else, since you are her next of kin. However, my boy, I must be frank with you: I have tried to find a husband for her seven times among our kinsmen, and all of them have died the first evening, on going to her room. But for the present, my boy, eat and drink; the Lord will grant you his grace and peace.' Tobias spoke out, 'I will not hear of eating and drinking till you have come to a decision about me'. Raguel answered, 'Very well. Since, as prescribed by the Book of Moses, she is given to you, heaven itself decrees she shall be yours. I shall therefore entrust your sister to you. From now you are her brother and she is your sister. She is given to you from today for ever. The Lord of heaven favour you tonight, my child, and grant you his grace and peace.' Raguel called for his daughter Sarah, took her by the hand and gave her to Tobias with these words, 'I entrust her to you; the law and the ruling recorded in the Book of Moses assign her to you as your wife. Take her; take her home to your father's house with a good conscience. The God of heaven grant you a good journey in peace.' Then he turned to her mother and asked her to fetch him writing paper. He drew up the marriage contract, how he

gave his daughter as bride to Tobias according to the ordinance in the Law of Moses.

After this they began to eat and drink.

OCM 183
Lect III 268

Tb 8:4b-8
A reading from the book of Tobit

Bring us to old age together.

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'.

OCM 184

Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31
A reading from the book of Proverbs

The woman who fears the Lord is the one to praise.

A perfect wife – who can find her?

She is far beyond the price of pearls.

Her husband's heart has confidence in her,
from her he will derive no little profit.

Advantage and not hurt she brings him
all the days of her life.

She is always busy with wool and with flax,
she does her work with eager hands.

She sets her hands to the distaff,
her fingers grasp the spindle.

She holds out her hand to the poor,
she opens her arms to the needy.

Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty;
the woman who is wise is the one to praise.

Give her a share in what her hands have worked for,
and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

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.

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

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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

OCM 202 Ps 32 (33):12 and 18, 20-21, 22, R. v.5b

(R.) The Lord fills the earth with his love.

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

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

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

OCM 203 Ps 33 (34):2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, R. v.2a. Alt. R. v.9a

(R.) I will bless the Lord at all times
or
(R.) Taste and see that the Lord is good.

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

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

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

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

(R.) The Lord is compassion and love.

or

(R.) The love of the Lord is everlasting
upon those who hold him in fear.

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

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

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

(R.) Happy the man who takes delight
in the Lord's commands.

or

(R.) Alleluia!

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

Riches and wealth are in his house;
his justice stands firm for ever.
He is a light in the darkness for the upright:

The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honour.
The just man will never waver:
he will be remembered for ever. (R.)

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

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

- OCM 206 Ps 127 (128):1-2, 3, 4-5ac and 6a, R. cf. v.1. Alt. R. v.4
(R.) O blessed are those who fear the Lord!
or
(R.) Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
- O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. (R.)
- Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. (R.)
- Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from [Zion](#)
all the days of your life! (R.)
- OCM 207 Ps 144 (145):8-9, 10 and 15, 17-18, R. v.9a
(R.) How good is the Lord to all.
- The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
Slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)
- All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
The eyes of all creatures look to you
and give them their food in due time. (R.)
- The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts. (R.)
- OCM 208 Ps 148:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-13ab, 13c-14a, R. v.13a
(R.) Praise the name of the Lord.
or
(R.) Alleluia!
- Praise the Lord from the heavens,
praise him in the heights.
Praise him, all his angels,
praise him, all his host. (R.)
- Praise him, sun and moon,
praise him, shining stars.
Praise him, highest heavens
and the waters above the heavens. (R.)
- All mountains and hills,
all fruit trees and cedars,
beasts, wild and tame,
reptiles and birds on the wing. (R.)

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

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

SECOND READING (New Testament)

OCM 188

Rom 8:31b-35, 37-39
 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

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

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

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

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

OCM 189

Rom 12:1-2, 9-18 (long form)
 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

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

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

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

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 that you can to live at peace with everyone.

or

Rom 12:1-2, 9-13 (short form)

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 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.

OCM 190

Rom 15:1b-3a, 5-7, 13

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Treat each other as Christ.

Without thinking of ourselves, each of us should think of his neighbours and help them to become stronger Christians. Christ did not think of himself. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you.

May the God of hope bring you such joy and peace in your faith that the power of the Holy Spirit will remove all bounds to hope.

OCM 191

1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20

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

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

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

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

Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

OCM 192	<p>1 Cor 12:31–13:8a</p> <p>A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians</p> <p>Be ambitious for the higher gifts. And I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.</p> <p>Love does not come to an end.</p>	<p><i>If I am without love, it will do me no good whatever.</i></p>
OCM 193	<p>Eph 4:1-6</p> <p>A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians</p> <p>I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, through all and within all.</p>	<p><i>One Body and one Spirit.</i></p>
OCM 194	<p>Eph 5:2a, 21-33 (long form)</p> <p>A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians</p> <p>Follow Christ by loving as he loved you, giving himself up in our place. Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church. To sum up; you too, each one of you, must love his wife as he loves himself; and let every wife respect her husband.</p> <p>or</p>	<p><i>This mystery has many implications and I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.</i></p>

Eph 5:2a, 25-32 (short form)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

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

OCM 195

Phil 4:4-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*The God of peace
will be with you.*

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

OCM 196

Col 3:12-17

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

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

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

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

Continue to love each other like brothers, and remember always to welcome strangers, for by doing this, some people have entertained angels without knowing it. Keep in mind those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; and those who are being badly treated, since you too are in the one body. Marriage is to be honoured by all, and marriages are to be kept undefiled, because fornicators and adulterers will come under God's judgement. Put greed out of your lives and be content with whatever you have; God himself has said: I will not fail you or desert you, and so we can say with confidence: With the Lord to help me, I fear nothing.

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

In the same way, husbands must always treat their wives with consideration in their life together, respecting a woman as one who, though she may be the weaker partner, is equally an heir to the life of grace. This will stop anything from coming in the way of your prayers.

Finally: you should all agree among yourselves and be sympathetic; love the brothers, have compassion and be self-effacing. Never pay back one wrong with another one; instead, pay back with a blessing. That is what you are called to do, so that you inherit a blessing yourself.

My children,
our love is not to be just words or mere talk,
but something real and active;
only by this can we be certain
that we are children of the truth
and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence,
whatever accusations it may raise against us,
because God is greater than our conscience
and he knows everything.
My dear people,
if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience,
we need not be afraid in God's presence,
and whatever we ask him,
we shall receive, because we keep his commandments

and live the kind of life that he wants.
 His commandments are these:
 that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ
 and that we love one another
 as he told us to.
 Whoever keeps his commandments
 lives in God and God lives in him.
 We know that he lives in us
 by the Spirit that he has given us.

OCM 200

1 Jn 4:7-12
 A reading from the first letter of St John

God is love.

My dear people,
 let us love one another
 since love comes from God
 and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.
 Anyone who fails to love can never have known God,
 because God is love.
 God's love for us was revealed
 when God sent into the world his only Son
 so that we could have life through him;
 this is the love I mean:
 not our love for God,
 but God's love for us when he sent his Son
 to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.
 My dear people,
 since God has loved us so much,
 we too should love one another.
 No one has ever seen God;
 but as long as we love one another
 God will live in us
 and his love will be complete in us.

OCM 201

Rv 19:1, 5-9a
 A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

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

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

ALLELUIA / VERSES BEFORE THE GOSPEL

- OCM 209 1 Jn 4:7b
Everyone who loves
is begotten by God,
and knows God.
- OCM 210 1 Jn 4:8b and 11
God is love;
let us love one another
as God has loved us.
- OCM 211 1 Jn 4:12
As long as we love one another
God will live in us,
and his love will be complete in us.
- OCM 212 1 Jn 4:16
Anyone who loves in love
lives in God,
and God lives in him.

GOSPEL READINGS

- OCM 213 Mt 5:1-12a
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
*Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward will
be great in heaven.*
- Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:
'How happy are the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage.
Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.
Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.
Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.
Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

OCM 214	<p>Mt 5:13-16</p> <p>A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew</p>	<p><i>You are the light of the world.</i></p>
	<p>Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.</p> <p>'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hilltop cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'</p>	
OCM 215	<p>Mt 7:21, 24-29 (long form)</p> <p>A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew</p>	<p><i>He built his house on rock.</i></p>
	<p>Jesus said to his disciples:</p> <p>'It is not those who say to me, "Lord, Lord", who will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the person who does the will of my Father in heaven.</p> <p>'Therefore, everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a sensible man who built his house on rock. Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew and hurled themselves against the house, and it did not fall: it was founded on rock. But everyone who listens to these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a stupid man who built his house on sand. Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew and struck that house, and it fell; and what a fall it had!'</p> <p>Jesus had now finished what he wanted to say, and his teaching made a deep impression on the people because he taught them with authority, and not like their own scribes.</p>	
	<p>or</p>	
	<p>Mt 7:21, 24-25 (short form)</p> <p>A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew</p> <p><i>He built his house on rock.</i></p> <p>Jesus said to his disciples:</p> <p>'It is not those who say to me, "Lord, Lord", who will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the person who does the will of my Father in heaven.</p> <p>'Therefore, everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a sensible man who built his house on rock. Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew and hurled themselves against that house, and it did not fall: it was founded on rock.'</p>	
OCM 216	<p>Mt 19:3-6</p> <p>A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew</p>	<p><i>What God has united, man must not divide.</i></p>
	<p>Some Pharisees approached Jesus, and to test him they said, 'Is it against the Law for a man to divorce his wife on any pretext whatever?' He answered, 'Have you not read that the creator from the beginning made them male and female and that he said: This is why a man must leave father and mother, and cling to his wife, and the two become one body? They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.'</p>	

OCM 217	Mt 22:35-40 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew	<i>This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it.</i>
	A lawyer, to disconcert Jesus, put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'	
OCM 218	Mk 10:6-9 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark	<i>They are no longer two, but one body.</i>
	Jesus said, 'From the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.'	
OCM 219	Jn 2:1-11 A reading from the holy Gospel according to John	<i>This was the first of the signs given by Jesus – at Cana in Galilee.</i>
	There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said, 'Woman why turn to me? My hour has not come yet.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews: each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water,' and they filled them to the brim. 'Draw some out now,' he told them, 'and take it to the steward.' They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from – only the servants who had drawn the water knew – the steward called the bridegroom and said, 'People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink, but you have kept the best wine till now.' This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.	
OCM 220	Jn 15:9-12 A reading from the holy Gospel according to John	<i>Remain in my love.</i>
	Jesus said to his disciples: 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is my commandment: love one another, as I loved you.'	

OCM 221

Jn 15:12-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*What I command
you is to love one
another.*

Jesus said to his disciples:
'This is my commandment:
love one another,
as I have loved you.
A man can have no greater love
than to lay down his life for his friends.
You are my friends,
if you do what I command you.
I shall not call you servants any more,
because a servant does not know
his master's business;
I call you friends,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.
You did not choose me,
no, I chose you;
and I commissioned you
to go out and to bear fruit,
fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you
anything you ask him in my name.'

OCM 222

Jn 17:20-26 (long form)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*May they be
completely one.*

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:
'Holy Father,
I pray not only for these,
but for those also
who through their words will believe in me.
May they all be one.
Father, may they be one in us,
as you are in me and I am in you,
so that the world may believe that it was you who sent me.
I have given them the glory that you gave to me,
that they may be one as we are one.
With me in them and you in me,
may they be so completely one
that the world will realise that it was you who sent me
and that I have loved them as much as you loved me.
Father,
I want those you have given me
to be with me where I am,
so that they may always see the glory
you have given me
because you loved me
before the foundation of the world.
Father, Righteous One,
the world has not known you,
but I have known you,
and these have known
that you have sent me.
I have made your name known to them
and will continue to make it known,

so that the love with which you loved me may be in them,
and so that I may be in them.'

or

Jn 17:20-23 (short form)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

May they be completely one.

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

'Holy Father,

I pray not only for these,

but for those also

who through their words will believe in me.

May they all be one.

Father, may they be one in us,

as you are in me and I am in you,

so that the world may believe that it was you who sent me.

I have given them the glory that you gave to me,

that they may be one as we are one.

With me in them and you in me,

may they be so completely one

that the world will realise that it was you who sent me

and that I have loved them as much as you loved me.

THE CELEBRATION OF MATRIMONY

INTRODUCTION

OCM 59, 93 Dearly beloved,
you have come together into the house of the Church,
so that in the presence of the Church's minister and the community
your intention to enter into Marriage
may be strengthened by the Lord with a sacred seal.
Christ abundantly blesses the love that binds you.
Through a special Sacrament,
he enriches and strengthens
those he has already consecrated by Holy Baptism,
that they may be faithful to each other for ever
and assume all the responsibilities of married life.
And so, in the presence of the Church,
I ask you to state your intentions.

OCM 158 Dearly beloved,
you have come together here
before a minister of the Church
(before me, the delegate of the Bishop of the Church
to assist at this celebration,)
and in the presence of the community
so that your intention to enter into Marriage
may be strengthened by the Lord with a sacred seal,
and your love be enriched with his blessing,
so that you may have strength
to be faithful to each other for ever
and to assume all the responsibilities of married life.
And so, in the presence of the Church,
I ask you to state your intentions.

*For a catholic
marrying a
catechumen or
non-Christian*

QUESTIONS BEFORE CONSENT

OCM 60, 94, N. and N., have you come here to enter into Marriage
159 without coercion,
freely and wholeheartedly?
Response: I have.

Are you prepared, as you follow the path of Marriage, to love and
honour each other for as long as you both shall live?

Response: I am.

Are you prepared to accept children lovingly from God
and to bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church?

Response: I am.

CONSENT

OCM 61, 95, Since it is your intention to enter the covenant of Holy Matrimony,
160 join your right hands and declare your consent before God and his
Church.

OCM 62, 96, The bridegroom says:
161 I, N., take you, N., to be my wife.
I promise to be faithful to you,
in good times and in bad,
in sickness and in health,
to love you and to honour you
all the days of my life.

*Contemporary
wording.*

The bride says:
I, N., take you, N., to be my husband.
I promise to be faithful to you,
in good times and in bad,
in sickness and in health,
to love you and to honour you
all the days of my life.

OR

The bridegroom says:
I, N., take you, N. for my lawful wife,
to have and to hold, from this day forward,
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
until death do us part.

*Traditional
wording.*

The bride says:
I, N., take you, N. for my lawful husband,
to have and to hold, from this day forward,
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
until death do us part.

OR

Minister asks the bridegroom:
N., do you take N., to be your wife?
Do you promise to be faithful to her
in good times and in bad,
in sickness and in health,
to love her and to honour her
all the days of your life?
The bridegroom replies: I do.

*If it seems
preferable for
pastoral reasons.*

Minister asks the bride:
N., do you take N., to be your husband?
Do you promise to be faithful to him
in good times and in bad,
in sickness and in health,
to love him and to honour him
all the days of your life?
The bride replies: I do.

RECEPTION OF THE CONSENT

OCM 64, 98, 163 *Minister:*
May the Lord in his kindness strengthen the consent
you have declared before the Church,
and graciously bring to fulfilment his blessing within you.
What God joins together, let no one put asunder.

OR

May the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob,
the God who joined together our first parents in paradise,
strengthen and bless in Christ
the consent you have declared before the Church,
so that what God joins together, no one may put asunder.

OCM 65, 99, 164 *Minister:* Let us bless the Lord.
All reply: Thanks be to God.

*Another
acclamation to
praise God may be
sung or said.*

BLESSING AND GIVING OF THE RINGS

OCM 66, 100, 165 May the Lord bless † these rings,
which you will give to each other
as a sign of love and fidelity.
Response: Amen.

OCM 229

OR

Bless, O Lord, these rings,
which we bless † in your name,
so that those who wear them may remain entirely faithful to each
other, abide in peace and in your will,
and live always in mutual charity. Through Christ our Lord.

OCM 230

OR

Bless † and sanctify your servants
in their love, O Lord,
and let these rings, a sign of their faithfulness,
remind them of their love for one another.
Through Christ our Lord.

OCM 67, 101,
167

The husband places his wife's ring on her ring finger, saying:
N., receive this ring
as a sign of my love and fidelity.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
The wife places her husband's ring on his ring finger, saying:
N., receive this ring
as a sign of my love and fidelity.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

OR

N., receive this ring,
as a sign of my love and fidelity.

*For non-Christian
spouse*

THE UNIVERSAL PRAYER

*These texts are examples only. Using them as models write prayers
which best express your personal circumstances.*

OCM 251, 252

Introduction

Dear brothers and sisters,
as we call to mind the special gift of grace and charity
by which God has been pleased to crown and consecrate the love
of our sister N. and our brother N.,
let us commend them to the Lord.

OR

Dear brothers and sisters,
let us accompany this new family with our prayers,
that the mutual love of this couple may grow daily
and that God in his kindness
will sustain all families throughout the world.

Or write your own introduction.

One or two petitions for the couple

That these faithful Christians, N. and N., newly joined in Holy
Matrimony, may always enjoy health and well-being, let us pray to
the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That Christ will bless their covenant as he chose to sanctify marriage
at Cana in Galilee, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That they be granted perfect and fruitful love, peace and strength,
and that they bear faithful witness to the name of Christian, let us
pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For this bride and groom, and for their well-being as a family, let us
pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Or write your own petition

A petition for family and friends

For their relatives and friends, and for all who have assisted this
couple, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all members of our families who have passed from this world,
and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Or write your own petition

A petition for other married people

That the grace of the Sacrament will be renewed by the Holy Spirit
in all married persons here present, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For young people preparing to enter Marriage, and for all whom the
Lord is calling to another state in life, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Or write your own petition

A petition for all who seek to live in love

That the Christian people may grow in virtue day by day
and that all who are burdened by any need may receive the help of
grace from above, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all families throughout the world and for lasting peace among
all people, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Church, the holy People of God, and for unity among all
Christians, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Or write your own petition

Concluding Prayer

Graciously pour out upon this husband and wife, O Lord,
the Spirit of your love,
to make them one heart and one soul,
so that nothing whatever may divide those you have joined
and no harm come to those you have filled with your blessing.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

*When Mass or
Communion follows*

Lord Jesus, who are present in our midst,
As N. and N. seal their union
accept our prayer
and fill us with your Spirit.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.
R. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

OCM 231
Missal 1236
Receive, we pray, O Lord,
the offering made on the occasion
of this sealing of the sacred bond of Marriage,
and, just as your goodness is its origin,
may your providence guide its course.
Through Christ our Lord.

OCM 232
Missal 1243
Receive in your kindness, Lord,
the offerings we bring in gladness before you,
and in your fatherly love
watch over those you have joined in a sacramental covenant.
Through Christ our Lord.

OCM 233
Missal 1249
Show favour to our supplications, O Lord,
and receive with a kindly countenance
the oblations we offer for these your servants,
joined now in a holy covenant,
that through these mysteries
they may be strengthened
in love for one another and for you.
Through Christ our Lord.

LORD'S PRAYER

OCM 103
At the Saviour's command
and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say:
All: Our Father, who art in heaven...

OCM 170
God the Father wills that his children be of one heart in charity;
let those who are Christian call upon him
in the prayer of God's family,
which our Lord Jesus Christ has taught us:
All: Our Father, who art in heaven...

*For a Catholic
marrying a
catechumen or
non-Christian*

NUPTIAL BLESSING

OCM 73
Missal 1240

Dear brothers and sisters,
let us humbly pray to the Lord
that on these his servants, now married in Christ,
he may mercifully pour out
the blessing of his grace
and make of one heart in love
(by the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood)
those he has joined by a holy covenant.

OR

OCM 104

Now let us humbly invoke God's blessing
upon this bride and groom,
that in his kindness he may favour with his help
those on whom he has bestowed the Sacrament of Matrimony.

OCM 74, 105
Missal 1240

O God, who by your mighty power
created all things out of nothing,
and, when you had set in place
the beginnings of the universe,
formed man and woman in your own image,
making the woman an inseparable helpmate to the man,
that they might no longer be two, but one flesh,
and taught that what you were pleased to make one
must never be divided;

O God, who consecrated the bond of Marriage
by so great a mystery
that in the wedding covenant you foreshadowed
the Sacrament of Christ and his Church;

O God, by whom woman is joined to man
and the companionship they had in the beginning
is endowed with the one blessing
not forfeited by original sin
nor washed away by the flood.

Look now with favour on these your servants,
joined together in Marriage,
who ask to be strengthened by your blessing.
Send down on them the grace of the Holy Spirit
and pour your love into their hearts,
that they may remain faithful in the Marriage covenant.

May the grace of love and peace
abide in your daughter N.,
and let her always follow the example of those holy women
whose praises are sung in the Scriptures.

May her husband entrust his heart to her,
so that, acknowledging her as his equal
and his joint heir to the life of grace,
he may show her due honour
and cherish her always
with the love that Christ has for his Church.

And now, Lord, we implore you:
may these your servants

hold fast to the faith and keep your commandments;
made one in the flesh,
may they be blameless in all they do;
and with the strength that comes from the Gospel,
may they bear true witness to Christ before all;
(may they be blessed with children,
and prove themselves virtuous parents,
who live to see their children's children).

And grant that,
reaching at last together the fullness of years
for which they hope,
they may come to the life of the blessed
in the Kingdom of Heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.

Response: Amen.

OCM 241
Missal 1246 Let us pray to the Lord for this bride and groom,
who come to the altar as they begin their married life,
that (partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ)
they may always be bound together by love for one another.

OCM 242
Missal 1246 Holy Father,
who formed man in your own image,
male and female you created them,
so that as husband and wife, united in body and heart,
they might fulfill their calling in the world;

O God, who, to reveal the great design you formed in your love,
willed that the love of spouses for each other
should foreshadow the covenant you graciously made with your
people,
so that, by fulfillment of the sacramental sign,
the mystical marriage of Christ with his Church
might become manifest
in the union of husband and wife among your faithful;

Graciously stretch out your right hand
over these your servants (N. and N.), we pray,
and pour into their hearts the power of the Holy Spirit.

Grant, O Lord,
that, as they enter upon this sacramental union,
they may share with one another the gifts of your love
and, by being for each other a sign of your presence,
become one heart and one mind.

May they also sustain, O Lord, by their deeds
the home they are forming
(and prepare their children
to become members of your heavenly household
by raising them in the way of the Gospel).

Graciously crown with your blessings your daughter N.,
so that, by being a good wife (and mother),
she may bring warmth to her home with a love that is pure
and adorn it with welcoming graciousness.

Bestow a heavenly blessing also, O Lord,
On N., your servant, that he may be a worthy, good and
faithful husband (and a provident father).

Grant, holy Father,
that, desiring to approach your table
as a couple joined in Marriage in your presence,
they may one day have the joy
of taking part in your great banquet in heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

OCM 243
Missal 1252 Let us humbly invoke by our prayers, dear brothers and sisters,
God's blessing upon this bride and groom,
that in his kindness he may favour with his help
those on whom he has bestowed the Sacrament of Matrimony.

OCM 244
Missal 1252 Holy Father, maker of the whole world,
who created man and woman in your own image
and willed that their union be crowned with your blessing,
we humbly beseech you for these your servants,
who are joined today in the Sacrament of Matrimony.

May your abundant blessing, Lord,
come down upon this bride, N.,
and upon N., her companion for life,
and may the power of your Holy Spirit
set their hearts aflame from on high,
so that, living out together the gift of Matrimony,
they may (adorn their family with children
and) enrich the Church.

In happiness may they praise you, O Lord,
in sorrow may they seek you out;
may they have the joy of your presence
to assist them in their toil,
and know that you are near
to comfort them in their need;
let them pray to you in the holy assembly
and bear witness to you in the world,
and after a happy old age,
together with the circle of friends that surrounds them,
may they come to the Kingdom of Heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

OCM 171 Now let us humbly invoke God's blessing
upon this bride and groom,
that in his kindness he may favour with his help
those on whom he has bestowed the bond of Marriage.

*For a Catholic
marrying a
catechumen or
non-Christian*

OCM 172

Holy Father, maker of the whole world,
who created man and woman in your own image
and willed that their union be crowned with your blessing,
we humbly beseech you for these your servants,
who are joined today in the Marriage covenant.

May your abundant blessing, Lord,
come down upon this bride, N.,
and upon N., her companion for life,
and may the power of your Holy Spirit
set their hearts aflame from on high,
so that, living out together the gift of Matrimony,
they may be known for the integrity of their conduct
(and be recognised as virtuous parents).

In happiness may they praise you, O Lord,
in sorrow may they seek you out;
may they have the joy of your presence
to assist them in their toil,
and know that you are near
to comfort them in their need;
and after a happy old age,
together with the circle of friends that surrounds them,
may they come to the Kingdom of Heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

OCM 174

*If, because of circumstances, the Nuptial Blessing is omitted, this
prayer is spoken over the bride and bridegroom:*

*For a Catholic
marrying a
catechumen or
non-Christian*

Be attentive to our prayers, O Lord,
and in your kindness uphold
what you have established for the increase of the human race,
so that the union you have created
may be kept safe by your assistance.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

BLESSINGS AT THE END OF THE CELEBRATION

OCM 77, 248

May God the eternal Father
keep you of one heart in love for one another,
that the peace of Christ may dwell in you
and abide always in your home.

R. Amen.

May you be blessed in your children,
have solace in your friends
and enjoy true peace with everyone.

R. Amen.

May you be witnesses in the world to God's charity,
so that the afflicted and needy who have known your kindness
may one day receive you thankfully
into the eternal dwelling of God.

R. Amen.

And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here,
the Father, and the Son, † and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

OCM 249

May God the all-powerful Father grant you his joy
and bless you in your children.

R. Amen.

May the Only Begotten Son of God
stand by you with compassion in good times and in bad.

R. Amen.

May the Holy Spirit of God
always pour forth his love into your hearts.

R. Amen.

And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here,
the Father, and the Son, † and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

OCM 250

May the Lord Jesus,
who graced the marriage at Cana by his presence,
bless you and your loved ones.

R. Amen.

May he, who loved the Church to the end,
unceasingly pour his love into your hearts.

R. Amen.

May the Lord grant
that, bearing witness to faith in his Resurrection,
you may await with joy the blessed hope to come.

R. Amen.

And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here,
the Father, and the Son, † and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

OCM 116, 175

May almighty God bless all of you,
who are gathered here,
the Father, and the Son, † and the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.

*Not used for
Matrimony within
Mass*

Notes

[illegible]

