*Celebrating the Marriage*



*of*

*Bride’s Name & Groom Name*

**[CHURCH NAME]**

**[DATE]**

# THE BRIDAL PARTY

# THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

## Reception of the Couple

## Greeting

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

**Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

and the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit

be with you all.

**And with your spirit.**

## Welcome

{{BRIDE}} and {{GROOM}}, 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.

## Collect

O God, who in creating the human race

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,

God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## First Reading

Tobit 8:5-10

A reading from the book of Tobit

May God bring us to old age together.

Tobias said to Sarah, 'You and I must pray and petition our Lord to win his grace and protection.' They began praying for protection, and this was how he began:

'You are blessed, O God of our fathers;

blessed, too, is your name

for ever and ever.

Let the heavens bless you

and all things you have made

for evermore.

It was you who created Adam,

you who created Eve his wife

to be his help and support;

and from these two the human race was born.

It was you who said,

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

let us make him a helpmate like himself."

And so I do not take my sister

for any lustful motive;

I do it in singleness of heart.

Be kind enough to have pity on her and on me

and bring us to old age together.'

And together they said, 'Amen, Amen'.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 127,1-2, 3, 4-5ac and 6a

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord.

or

R. See how the Lord blesses those who fear him.

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!

May you see your children's children. R.

## Second Reading

Colossians 3:12-17

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Above all have love, which is the bond of perfection.

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

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

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Acclamation

1 John 4:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who live in love, live in God,

and God in them.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

Matthew 19:3-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

So then, what God has united, no one must divide.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## Homily

# THE CELEBRATION OF MATRIMONY

## Introduction

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.

## Questions Before The Consent

{{BRIDE}} and {{GROOM}}, have you come here to enter into Marriage

without coercion, freely and wholeheartedly?

The bridegroom and bride each say:

I have.

The Priest continues:

Are you prepared, as you follow the path of Marriage,

to love and honour each other

for as long as you both shall live?

The bridegroom and bride each say:

I am.

The following question may be omitted, if circumstances suggest this, for example, if the couple are advanced in years.

Are you prepared to accept children lovingly from God

and to bring them up

according to the law of Christ and his Church?

The bridegroom and bride each say:

I am.

## Consent

The Priest invites them to declare their consent:

Since it is your intention to enter the covenant of Holy Matrimony,

join your right hands and declare your consent

before God and his Church.

The bridegroom says:

I, {{GROOM}}, take you, {{BRIDE}}, 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.

The bride says:

I, {{BRIDE}}, take you, {{GROOM}}, 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.

## Reception of Consent

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.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Blessing of Rings

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.

Amen.

## Giving of Rings

The bridegroom places his wife's ring on her ring finger, saying, as the circumstances so suggest:

{{BRIDE}}, 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.

Likewise, the bride places her husband's ring on his ring finger, saying, as the circumstances so suggest:

{{GROOM}}, 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.

## Universal Prayer

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.

For this bride and groom,

and for their well-being as a family,

let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

For their relatives and friends,

and for all who have assisted this couple,

let us pray to the Lord. R.

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.

For all families throughout the world

and for lasting peace among all people,

let us pray to the Lord. R.

For all members of our families

who have passed from this world,

and for all the departed,

let us pray to the Lord. R.

For the Church, the holy people of God,

and for unity among all Christians,

let us pray to the Lord. R.

Lord Jesus, who are present in our midst,

as {{BRIDE}} and {{GROOM}} seal their union

accept our prayer

and fill us with your Spirit.

Who live and reign for ever and ever.

Amen.

## Invitation to Nuptial Blessing

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.

## Nuptial Blessing

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 fulfil 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 fulfilment 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 ({{BRIDE}} and {{GROOM}}), 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 {{BRIDE}},

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 {{GROOM}}, 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.

Amen.

# THE CONCLUSION OF THE CELEBRATION

## Greeting

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

## Blessing

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.

Amen.

May you be blessed in your children,

have solace in your friends

and enjoy true peace with everyone.

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.

Amen.

And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here,

the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

## Dismissal

Go in peace.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Signing of the Register and Leaving the Church