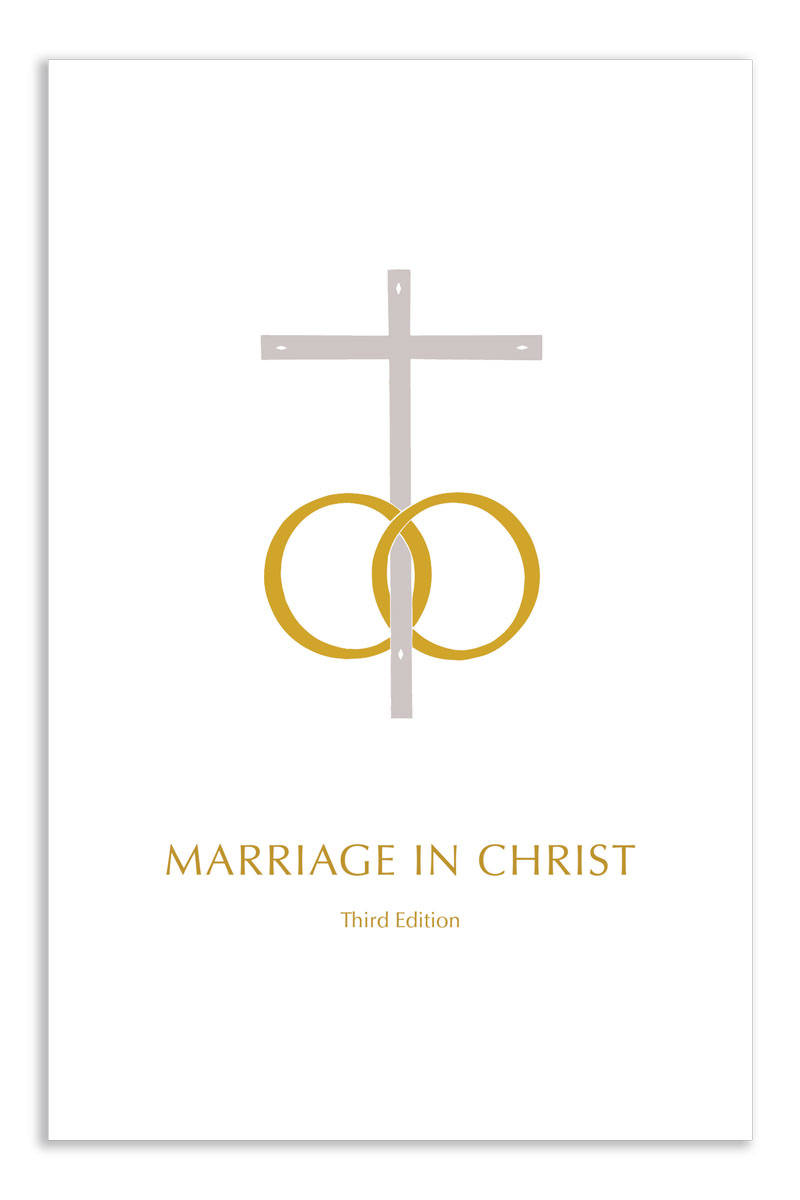
*Celebrating the Marriage*



*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

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,

God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## First Reading

Genesis 2:18-24

A reading from the book of Genesis

And they will be two in one flesh.

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them; each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed:

'This at last is bone from my bones,

and flesh from my flesh!

This is to be called woman,

for this was taken from man.'

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

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32:12, 18, 20-22

R. The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

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.

## Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8

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

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

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

If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels, but speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are, and knowing everything, and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all. If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece, and if I even let them take my body to burn it, but am without love, it will do me no good whatever.

Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.

Love does not come to an end.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Acclamation

1 John 4:12

Alleluia, alleluia!

If we love one another,

God will live in us in perfect love.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

John 2:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

This was the first of the signs given by Jesus; it was given at Cana in Galilee.

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said, 'Woman why turn to me? My hour has not come yet.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews: each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water,' and they filled them to the brim. 'Draw some out now,' he told them, 'and take it to the steward.' They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from - only the servants who had drawn the water knew - the steward called the bridegroom and said, 'People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink, but you have kept the best wine till now.'

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

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}}, 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.

The bride says:

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

## Reception of Consent

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.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Blessing of Rings

May the Lord bless + these rings,

which you will give to each other

as a sign of love and fidelity.

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,

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 {{BRIDE}} and our brother {{GROOM}},

let us commend them to the Lord.

That these faithful Christians, {{BRIDE}} and {{GROOM}},

newly joined in Holy Matrimony,

may always enjoy health and well-being,

let us pray to the Lord.

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

That he will bless their covenant

as he chose to sanctify marriage at Cana in Galilee,

let us pray to the Lord. R.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Amen.

## Invitation to Nuptial Blessing

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

those he has joined by a holy covenant.

## Nuptial Blessing

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 {{BRIDE}},

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.

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