

The Marriage of

N
&
N

(Date)

The Church of Saint Michael/Mary,*

*Enniskillen/Lisbellaw**

** Delete or change name & place of church as appropriate above*

THE BRIDAL PARTY

Bride:
Groom:
Priest:
Minister:

Parents of the Bride:
Parents of the Groom:

Chief Bridesmaid:
Bridesmaids:

Best Man:
Groomsmen:

Flower Girl:
Page Boy:

Ushers:

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Music for the Entrance of the Bridal Party: _____

The Greeting:

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

C Amen

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And with your spirit**

Words of Welcome:

After some introductory words of welcome from the clergy present, the service continues:

P My sisters and brothers, as we gather together to celebrate the mystery of God's love and power, made visible in marriage, let us worship God together as we sing (say):

Hymn/Anthem:

(At this point, all worship God together with a song or hymn or anthem to mark the sacred purpose which has brought all together. Alternatively, all recite together the Gloria text that follows below:

The Gloria

P Glory to God in the highest,

C and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,

we give you thanks for your great glory,

Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;

you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

The Lighting of the Individual Candles *(optional)*

After a brief introduction, N & N may light the individual candles, representing the love and the light they bring as individuals to this day.

The Collect

Option 1

P Let us pray
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,
one God, for ever and ever.

C **Amen.**

Option 2

P Let us pray
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.

C **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

This reading is usually proclaimed by a reader chosen by a friend or member of the family. Choose one of the options that follow:

Option 1

A reading from the Song of Songs

I hear my Beloved. See how he comes leaping on the mountains, bounding over the hills. My Beloved is like a gazelle, like a young stag. See where he stands behind our wall. He looks in at the window, he peers through the lattice. My Beloved lifts up his voice, he says to me, "Come then my love, my lovely one, come. My dove, hiding in the clefts of the rock, in the coverts of the cliff, show me your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet and your face is beautiful". My Beloved is mine and I am his. Set me like a seal on you heart, like a seal on you arm. For love is strong as Death, jealously relentless as Sheol. The flash of it is a flash of fire, a flame of the Lord himself. Love no flood can quench, no torrents drown.

The word of the Lord

Thanks to be God.

Option 2

A reading from the book of Genesis

God said, "Let us make man in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves, and let them be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven, the cattle, all the wild beasts and all the reptiles that crawl upon the earth."

God created man in the image of himself, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and conquer it. Be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven and all living animals on the earth." God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good.

The word of the Lord

Thanks to be God.

Option 3

A reading from the book of Genesis

The Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone, I will make him a helpmate. So from the soil the Lord 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 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 to be God.

Option 4

A reading from the book of Tobit

On the evening of their marriage, Tobias said to Sarah, "You and I must pray and petition our Lord to win his grace and protection", She stood up, and 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 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 to be God.

Option 5

A reading from the Song of Songs

Set me like a seal on your heart, like a seal on your arm. For love is strong as death, passion as relentless as Sheol.

The flash of it is a flash of fire, a flame of Yahweh himself. Love no flood can quench, no torrents drown.

Were a man to offer all his family wealth to buy love, contempt is all that he would gain. Haste away, my love, be like a gazelle, a young stag, on the spice-laden mountain.

The word of the Lord

Thanks to be God.

Option 6

A reading from the book of Ruth

But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave and to stop going with you, for wherever you go, I shall go, wherever you live, I shall live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Where you die, I shall die and there I shall be buried. Let Yahweh bring unnameable ills on me and worse ills, too, if anything but death should part me from you!"

The word of the Lord

Thanks to be God.

Option 7

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus

Pleasant speech multiplies friends,
and a gracious tongue multiplies courtesies.

Let those who are friendly with you be many,
but let your advisers be one in a thousand.

When you gain friends, gain them through testing,
and do not trust them hastily.

Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter:
whoever finds one has found a treasure.

Faithful friends are beyond price;

no amount can balance their worth.
Faithful friends are life-saving medicine;
and those who fear the Lord will find them.
Those who fear the Lord direct their friendship aright,
for as they are, so are their neighbours also.
The word of the Lord
Thanks to be God.

Option 8

A reading from the book of Numbers

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, thus you shall bless the Israelites: you shall say to them,

The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (sung)

The Responsorial Psalm is intended as an opportunity for all gathered to respond to the word of God as proclaimed from the Sacred Scriptures. It is preferable that it be sung by a Cantor (Solo Singer) with a congregational response sung after each verse of the Psalm. Alternatively, it may be preferable for all to sing together a suitable Hymn or Anthem.

Alternatively you may ask someone to read one of the following options.

If you are not using one of the following texts, simply delete them all.

Option 1

Response: The Lord is compassion and love

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)**

Option 2

Response: 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)**

Option 3

Response: The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want

The Lord is my shepherd,
There is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
Where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters He leads me
To revive my drooping spirit. **(R)**

He guides me along the right path;
He is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
No evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
With these you give me comfort. **(R)**

You have prepared a banquet for me
In the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
My cup is overflowing. **(R)**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
All the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
For ever and ever. **(R)**

Option 4

Response: Praise the name of the Lord

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)

Option 5

**Response: May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you**

For the love of the Lord is faithful,
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. (R)

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
On those who hope in his love,
To rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. (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)

Second Reading

This reading is usually proclaimed by a reader chosen by a friend or member of the family. Choose one of the options that follow:

Option 1

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Option 2

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

Be ambitious for the higher gifts. And I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them. If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels, but speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are, and knowing everything, and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all. If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece, and if I even let them take my body to burn it, but am without love, it will do me no good whatever. Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's 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.

Option 3

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Think of God's mercy, my brothers and sisters, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your loving bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviours 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 in the highest ideals. Do all you can to live at peace with everyone.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Option 4

A reading from the first letter of St John

My dear people,

let us love one another since love comes from God

and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love.

God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him;

this is the love I mean:

not our love for God, but God's love for us

when he 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Option 5

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

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 in the highest ideals. Do all you can to live at peace with everyone.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Option 6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

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

Option 7

A reading from St Paul's letter 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 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Option 8

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

I want you to be happy always 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 thanks giving and that peace of God which is so much greater than we can understand will guard you hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus. Finally brothers and sisters, 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 and worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learned 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. The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (sung)

Your singer(s) or soloist will suggest a suitable piece for this. There is no need to include the text of it here as it should be quite short. A suitable church music song at this point will include the word 'Alleluia!'. However, during the church season of Lent the word 'Alleluia!' is not to be used.

The Gospel

The Gospel text is read by the priest.

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with your spirit.**

Option 1

P **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. 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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Option 2

P **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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 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.

Option 3

P A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

C Glory to you, O Lord.

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; then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Option 4

P A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

C Glory to you, O Lord.

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."

"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 The Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Option 5

P **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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 way 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 The Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Option 6

P **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples: "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.

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"! 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 The Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Option 7

P **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off in his joy, sells everything he owns and buys the field. Again, the kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

P The Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Option 8

P A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap, because the standard you use will be the standard used for you.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Homily

THE RITE OF MARRIAGE

There are three parts to the Rite of Marriage: (1) The Address in which the couple to be married publicly declare that their acceptance of what they undertake; (2) the Declaration of Consent in which the couple give their consent to be married to each other; and (3) the Blessing and Exchange of Rings. The priest conducts this Rite. There are a number of options from which to choose for each of these parts.

The Address

Option 1

P Dear children of God, you have come to this church so that the Lord may seal your love in the presence of the priest and of this community. Christ blesses this love. He has already consecrated you in baptism; now, by a special sacrament, he strengthens you to fulfil the duties of your married life.

N and N, you are about to celebrate this sacrament.

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

Both: We have.

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

Both: We will

P Are you willing to accept with love the children God may send you and bring them up in accordance with the law of Christ and his church?

Both: We are.

Option 2

P Dear children of God, you have come to this church so that the Lord may seal your love in the presence of the priest and of this community. Christian marriage is a sacred union which enriches natural love. It binds those who enter it to be faithful to each other for ever; it creates between them a bond that endures for life and cannot be broken; it demands that they love and honour each other, that they accept from God the children he may give them, and bring them up in his love. To help them in their marriage the husband and wife receive the life-long grace of the sacrament. Is this your understanding of marriage?

Both: It is.

The Declaration of Consent

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

Option 1

N, do you take N as your wife,
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
all the days of your life?

N I do

P N, do you take N as your husband,
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
all the days of your life?

N I do

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

C Amen.

Option 2

N I, N, take you N as my wife,
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
all the days of our life

N I, N, take you N as my husband,
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
all the days of our life.

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

C **Amen.**

The Blessing & Exchange of Rings

Option 1

P Lord, bless N and N and consecrate their married life.
May these rings be a symbol of their faith in each other and
a reminder of their love. Through Christ our Lord.

Both: **Amen.**

Option 2

P Lord, bless these rings. Grant that those who wear them may always be
faithful to each other. May they do your will and live in peace with you
and in mutual love. Through Christ our Lord.

Both: **Amen.**

N: **N, wear this ring as a sign of our faithful love,
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**

N: **N, wear this ring as a sign of our faithful love,
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**

The Groom may give the Bride a token or small gift and may say the following:

**N: I give you this gold and silver, tokens of all I possess.
(or: I give you this gift, a token of all I possess)**

Hymn/Anthem

This would be an appropriate moment for all to worship God in song together. During this hymn the couple may light their Marriage Candle

The Lighting of the Individual Candles *(optional)*

N & N now light the marriage candle to represent their unity in marriage.

The Prayer of the Faithful

(Some five or six of the following prayers may be read by guests or friends or family members as desired by the couple. They may also be read by the Minister.)

P Now that N and N have given themselves to each other in Christian Marriage let us ask God our Father to keep them and all married couples faithful to him, and united in themselves.

Option 1

R For N and N that the Lord, who has brought them to this happy day, will keep them forever in fidelity and love. Lord hear us:

C **Lord graciously hear us.**

Option 2

R For their parents of N and N, for their friends and all who have helped them to become husband and wife, Lord hear us:

C **Lord graciously hear us.**

Option 3

R For the world and its peoples that the Lord may bless them with his peace and the protection of his love. Lord hear us:

C **Lord graciously hear us.**

Option 4

R For our community and our families, who welcome Christ into their lives; that they may learn to receive him in the poor and suffering people of the world. Lord hear us:

C Lord graciously hear us.

Option 5

R For God's Church, the Bride of Christ, that it may be united in faith and love, Lord hear us:

C Lord graciously hear us.

Option 6

R For all who are victims of injustice, and for those deprived of love and affection, Lord hear us:

C Lord graciously hear us.

Option 7

R For married couples everywhere that their lives will be an example to the world of unity, fidelity and love, Lord hear us:

C Lord graciously hear us.

Option 8

R For those who mourn, while we are rejoicing, that in their suffering and loneliness they may experience the strength of God's support, Lord hear us:

C Lord graciously hear us.

Option 9

R We remember those departed from us in this life, and especially those whom we, ourselves, have loved: that God will one day unite us again in the joys of our eternal home, Lord hear us:

C Lord graciously hear us.

The Nuptial Blessing

(The Priest or Minister continues with the Nuptial Blessing as follows:)

Option 1

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.

All pray silently for a short while.

Then the priest continues:

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.

C **Amen.**

Option 2

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 make 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 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.

C Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

P At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil
for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory**

for ever and ever. Amen

The Rite of Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And with your spirit.**

P Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

The bride and groom, and all present, offer each other a customary sign of peace.

Prayer of the Newly Married Couple

The bride and groom may lead all couples present, especially those married or engaged, in the prayer that follows:

We thank you, Lord, and we praise you
for bringing us to this happy day
You have given us to each other.
Now, together, we give ourselves to you.

We ask you, Lord: make us one in your love;
keep us one in your peace.
Protect our marriage. Bless our home.
Make us gentle. Keep us faithful.

And when life is over unite us again
where parting is no more in the kingdom of your love.
There we will praise you in the happiness and peace
of our eternal home.
Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITE

The Blessing & Dismissal

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with your spirit.**

P 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.

C **Amen**

P May you be blessed in your children,

have solace in your friends
and enjoy true peace with everyone..

C Amen.

P 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

C Amen.

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

C Amen.

P Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

C Thanks be to God.

Signing of the Marriage Schedule

During the signing of the Marriage Schedule some suitable music may be played or some suitable solo singing may occur.

Music/Hymn/Anthem: _____

You might like to include one of the following by way of a Reflection at the end of your wedding service booklet

Reflection Option 1

We thank you, Lord, and we praise you
for bringing us to this happy day
You have given us to each other.
Now, together, we give ourselves to you.

We ask you, Lord: make us one in your love;
keep us one in your peace.
Protect our marriage. Bless our home.
Make us gentle. Keep us faithful.

And when life is over unite us again
where parting is no more in the kingdom of your love.
There we will praise you in the happiness and peace
of our eternal home.
Amen.

Reflection Option 2

*It takes a ring, it takes a prayer.
It takes a dream two people share.*

*It takes two hearts that beat as one.
It takes faith in years to come.
It takes God's blessing from above.
But most of all it takes your love.*

Reflection Option 3

Love is life's most beautiful mystery
It often comes as a surprise
filling the heart with joy,
selfless and giving
Love places the happiness of another,
before one's own.
It inspires with its passion,
matures with its generosity
and enriches with its spirit.
There's no limit to love:
love is eternal.

You might like to include one of the following by way of a 'Thank You' Note

Thank you - Option 1

***We would like to thank our families and friends
for coming to share this special day with us.***

N & N

Thank you - Option 2

***To our parents, families and our friends,
we thank you for your help
in making this day so special for us.***

N & N

Thank you - Option 3

***We thank you all, parents, family and friends,
for being with us on this happy day.***

N & N

Thank you - Option 4

*We thank you each and everyone
For joining us this day
You added to our happiness
In a very special way.*

*And as the years shall come and go
Our dreams will give us pleasure.
And bring you back to us again
In memories to treasure.*

N & N

Thank you - Option 5

*Thank you, friends and neighbours,
And relatives so dear,
For all the joy you've wished us,
And for your presence here.*

N & N

Finally, you might like to include the following note about the Hotel Reception

*Light refreshments will be served at (time)
in the (Name of Place for Reception)
followed by dinner at (time)*