

## Rite of Marriage

All stand, including the Bride and Bridegroom, and the Priest addresses them in these words:

**Priest:** N. and N. (Christian names only) you have come together in this church so that the Lord may seal and strengthen your love in the presence of the church's minister and this community. Christ abundantly blesses this love. He has already consecrated you in baptism and now He enriches and strengthens you by a special sacrament so that you may assume the duties of marriage in mutual and lasting fidelity. And so, in the presence of the Church, I ask you to state your intentions.

The following questions are put only once, but the Bride and Bridegroom answer separately.

**Priest:** N. and N. (Christian names only) I shall now ask you if you freely undertake the obligations of marriage, and to state that there is no legal impediment to your marriage.

Are you ready freely and without reservation to give yourselves to each other in marriage? The Bride

**Bridegroom:** I am.

**Bride:** I am.

**Priest:** Are you ready to love and honour each other as man and wife for the rest of your lives?

**Bridegroom:** I am.

**Bride:** I am.

The following questions may be omitted if, for example, the couple is advanced in years.

**Priest:** Are you ready to accept children lovingly from God, and bring them up according to the law of Christ and His Church?

**Bridegroom:** I am.

**Bride:** I am.

**Bridegroom:** I do solemnly declare that I know not of any lawful impediment why I, N.N. (full name including surname),

may not be joined in matrimony to N.N. (bride's full name, including surname).

**Bride:** I do solemnly declare that I know not of any lawful impediment why I, N.N. (full name including surname), may not be joined in matrimony to N.N. (bridegroom's full name, including surname).

**Priest:** Since it is your intention to enter into marriage, declare your consent before God and His Church.

To the BRIDEGROOM:

**Priest:** N.N., will you take N.N, here present for your lawful wife, according to the rite of our holy Mother the Church?

**Bridegroom:** I will.

To the BRIDE:

**Priest:** N.N., will you take N.N, here present for your lawful husband, according to the rite of our holy Mother the Church?

**Bride:** I will.

The Bride and Bridegroom JOIN THEIR RIGHT HANDS.

**Bridegroom:** I call upon these persons here present to witness that I, N.N., do take thee, N.N. to be my lawful wedded wife to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part.

They SEPARATE their HANDS for a moment and then REJOIN THEM.

**Bride:** I call upon these persons here present to witness that I, N.N., do take thee, N.N. to be my lawful wedded husband to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part.

**Priest:** You have declared your consent before the Church. May the Lord in His goodness strengthen your consent and fill you both with his blessings. What God has joined together, let no man put asunder.

## BLESSING AND EXCHANGE OF RINGS

The Priest now blesses the ring(s).

**Priest:** May the Lord bless B this (these rings) which you give (to each other) as a sign of your love and fidelity.

**All:** Amen

The HUSBAND places his wife's ring on her finger, saying:

**Husband:** N. (**Christian name only**), take 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.

If the husband is to receive a ring the WIFE places it on his finger, saying:

**Wife:** N. (**Christian name only**), take 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.

## BIDDING PRAYERS

**Priest:** In the love of man and wife God shows us a wonderful reflection of His own eternal love. Today N. and N. have dedicated themselves to one another in unending love. They will share with one another all that life brings. Let us ask God to bless them in the years ahead, and to be with them in all the circumstances of their marriage.

**Reader:** Christ is present to N. and N. in this Sacrament of Matrimony. We pray that He will continue to make His presence felt throughout their lives.  
Lord, hear us.

**People:** Lord, graciously hear us.

**Reader:** May the grace given to N. and N. in the Sacrament of Matrimony be always active in them. May it inspire them when life seems dull and strengthen them in times of trial. May it give them understanding in moments of tension, and fill them with gratitude when all goes well.  
Lord, hear us.

**People:** Lord, graciously hear us.

**Reader:** May the love of N. and N. grow large enough to embrace the children God may send them. May they in their turn, bring ever greater happiness to their parents.  
Lord, hear us.

**People:** Lord, graciously hear us.