

# Texts of the Marriage Rite

## Flow of the Marriage Liturgy

- INTRODUCTORY RITES
  - Greeting
  - Opening Prayer
- LITURGY OF THE WORD
- LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT
  - Introduction
  - Questions
  - Consent
  - Blessing and exchange of rings
  - General Intercessions
  - Nuptial Blessing
- CONCLUDING RITES
  - The Lord's Prayer
  - *Signing of the Register*
  - Solemn Blessing

## Flow of the Nuptial Mass

- INTRODUCTORY RITES
  - Greeting
  - Opening Prayer
  - [Gloria]
- LITURGY OF THE WORD
- LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT
  - Introduction
  - Questions
  - Consent
  - Blessing and exchange of rings
  - General Intercessions
- LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST
  - Preparation of the Gifts \*
  - Preface of Marriage \*
  - Eucharistic Prayer (with special intentions) \*
  - The Lord's Prayer
  - Nuptial Blessing
  - Communion Rite
  - Prayer after Communion \*
- CONCLUDING RITES
  - *Signing of the Register*
  - Solemn Blessing

\* *These texts provided on request*

# Introductory Rites

**Entrance Procession** *{with appropriate music}*

**Greeting**

**Opening Prayer A**

Let us pray.

*And all pray in silence with the Priest for a while.*

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.

**Opening Prayer B**

Let us pray.

*And all pray in silence with the Priest for a while.*

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 [or N. and N.]  
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.

**Opening Prayer C**

Let us pray.

*And all pray in silence with the Priest for a while.*

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.

## Opening Prayer D

Let us pray.

*And all pray in silence with the Priest for a while.*

O God, who consecrated the bond of Marriage  
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.

## Opening Prayer E

Let us pray.

*And all pray in silence with the Priest for a while.*

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.

## Opening Prayer F

Let us pray.

*And all pray in silence with the Priest for a while.*

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.

# Liturgy of the Word

- See separate booklet/guide

## Liturgy of the Sacrament

### Introduction to the Giving of Consent [A]

My dear friends, 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.

### or [B]

N. and N. the promise you make to each other today is serious, because it will bind you together for life in a relationship so close and so intimate that it will profoundly influence your whole future. That future, with its hopes and disappointments, its successes and its failures, its pleasures and its pains, its joys and its sorrows, is hidden from your eyes. You know that these elements are mingled in every life and are to be expected in your own. And so, not knowing what is before you, but trusting in God's companionship, you take each other through the best and worst of what lies ahead, until death. I now invite you to join hands, and commit yourselves to each other forever.

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### Questions (only 1 form)

N. and N. have you come together freely and without reservation to give yourselves to each other in marriage?

Yes, I have.

Will you love and honour each other as husband and wife for the rest of your lives?

Yes, I will.

Will you accept children lovingly from God and bring them up according to the law of Christ and His Church?

Yes, I will.

Since it is your intention to enter into marriage,  
join your hands and declare your consent before  
God, your family and friends.

### **Giving of Consent A**

*The bridegroom says:*

I, N., take you, N., to be my wife. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honour you all the days of my life.

*The bride says:*

I, N., take you, N., to be my husband. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honour you all the days of my life.

### **Giving of Consent B**

*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.

*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.

### **Declaration**

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, no one must divide.

R. Amen.

### **Blessing of Rings A**

May the Lord bless + these rings  
which you give to each other  
as the sign of your love and fidelity.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Blessing of Rings B**

Lord, bless these rings which we bless + in your name.  
Grant that those who wear them  
may always have a deep faith in each other,

May they do your will  
and always live together  
in peace, good will, and love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Blessing of Rings C**

Lord, Bless + and consecrate N. and N.  
in their love for each other.

May these rings be a symbol  
of true faith in each other,  
and always remind them of their love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Exchange of Rings**

*The bridegroom places his wife's ring on her ring finger. He may say:*

N., 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.

*The bride places her husband's ring on his ring finger. She may say:*

N., 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.

*(The couple may wish to share a kiss at this point)*

*It may be appropriate to adapt the following prayers to the particular circumstances of the couple and their commitment to the Lord. The following prayers may be seen as models. Prayers may be chosen from more than one collection.*

### **Prayer of the Faithful A**

God the Father, source of all life and love,  
willed that husband  
and wife should become one flesh in marriage.  
Let us pray to him  
in sincerity of heart on this joyous occasion.

1. For N. and N., that their love for each other may be patterned on Christ's love for his bride, the Church, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

2. For fruitful love, that N. and N. will share in God's creative work and enjoy the gift of children, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

3. For the parents of N. and N., that they will continue to support them on the journey which begins at this altar, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

4. For those preparing for their marriage day, that they may understand well the dignity and

responsibilities of the marriage covenant and family life, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

5. For married people everywhere, that they will live in love and faithfulness, for better, for worse, in joy or in sorrow, all the days of their lives, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Father of life and love,  
in union with Mary our Mother,  
who was a wedding guest at Cana,  
we make our requests in prayer,  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### **Prayer of the Faithful B**

My dear friends, let us ask God to bless N. and N. in their marriage and to unite them in love through his Holy Spirit.

1. That their married love may reflect God's saving love for the human family, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

2. That they may be united in love and fidelity as Christ is united with his church, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

3. That, through the Holy Spirit, they may grow into a community of love and show that Christ's Church is present in their home, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

4. That, through loving one another in Christ, they may come to love Christ in their neighbour, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

5. That the Church will bring salvation to the world by expressing Christ's love for all people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

6. That all Christians may radiate the joy of living in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Father, you have made Christian marriage the sign of the unity between Christ and his Church. Hear our prayers for N. and N. May they love one another as Christ loves his Church. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Prayer of the Faithful C**

My dear friends, let us pray to the Lord that he will make known to N. and N. the riches of their vocation in marriage.

1. That, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, their lives may be lived in love, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

2. That God will help them to make a home together, and grace it with hospitality, friendship and prayer, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

3. That God will make their love an expression of his creative love, and bless them with children, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

4. (That God will make their love an expression of his saving love for all people, let us pray to the Lord.)

Lord, hear our prayer.

5. That they may minister the grace of marriage to each other in their joys and sorrows, in their hopes and disappointments, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

6. That the Church may reveal to the world God's love for the human family, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

7. That the grace of marriage will be renewed in all Christian families, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Father, you are a God of love, and through your Son you have taught us to love one another. May N. and N. in their marriage take Christ's love into the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Prayer of the Faithful D

My dear friends, let us pray to our Father in heaven that he will bless N. and N. throughout their married life, and that he will keep them united in undivided love.

1. That they may always love one another as Christ loves his Church, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

2. That, in their marriage, they will listen to Christ's gospel and pray together, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

3. That, through the joys and sacrifices of their married life, they will give witness to their love for Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

4. That the Christian hope for peace on earth may be fulfilled in their family, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

5. That the grace of marriage may be renewed in all Christian families, and redeem human love from selfishness and indifference, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

6. That all Christians will witness to the gospel of love and offer hospitality to Christ when he comes to them in the form of a stranger, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Father, you are love itself, and you have made man and woman in your likeness.  
Hear our prayers for N. and N. May they bring your love to others throughout the years of their marriage.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Prayer of the Faithful E

My dear friends, let us ask God to bless N. and N. in their marriage and to keep them united in their covenant of love.

1. That God will help them to fulfil their human and Christian vocation in marriage, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

2. That, through their love for each other, they will give witness to his eternal covenant of love with the human family, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

3. That they may be faithful as God is faithful, and led to holiness through success and failure, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

4. That, as their faith increases, they may see the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection in their life, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

5. That he will bless their parents, friends and all who are here, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

6. That all Christians may be faithful to the command of his covenant and love one another as Christ has loved them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

7. That he will grant peace to the world, and help the members of the human family to live for each other, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Father, in the new covenant of Christ you have given us the pledge of your eternal love and fidelity. Hear our prayers for N. and N. May they mirror your love and reflect your fidelity in their married life.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## Prayer of the Faithful F

My dear friends, let us pray to our Father in heaven that he will keep N. and N. united in undivided love, and that he will bless them throughout their married life.

1. That their love may be patient and gentle, ready to trust, and to endure whatever comes, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

2. That they may pray together in joy and sorrow, and always give thanks for the gift of each other, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

3. That God will bless their daily work and perfect through them his work of creation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

4. That his peace may dwell in their home and give hope of peace to the world, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

5. That all married people may be helped to renew and deepen their love, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

6. That the Church will bring salvation to the world by expressing Christ's love for all people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Almighty God, you have come into the lives of N. and N. through the gift of married love. Remain with them always, and show your great love for those who call you their Father. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Nuptial Blessing A

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.

*And all pray in silence for a while.*

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 you taught that  
what you were pleased to make one must never be  
divided;  
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;  
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 the fullness of years  
together for which they hope, they may come to the life  
of the blessed in the Kingdom of heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## Nuptial Blessing B

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.

*And all pray in silence for a while.*

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 (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 N., your  
handmaid, 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.

Amen.

## Nuptial Blessing C

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 in silence for a while.*

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.

Amen.

# Concluding Rites

## The Lord's Prayer

*Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Saviour gave us:*

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.

- **The signing of the government register**  
*The bridal party [couple, witnesses & priest] moves to the location of the marriage registry to sign the government forms. This is accompanied with appropriate music. The signing may also take place after the final blessing.*

## Solemn Blessing A

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 he blesses all the people, adding:*

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

Amen.

## Solemn Blessing B

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

Amen.

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

Amen.

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

Amen.

*And he blesses all the people, adding:*

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

Amen.

## Solemn Blessing C

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

Amen.

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

Amen.

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

Amen.

*And he blesses all the people, adding:*

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

Amen.

- **Recessional**  
*{with appropriate music}*