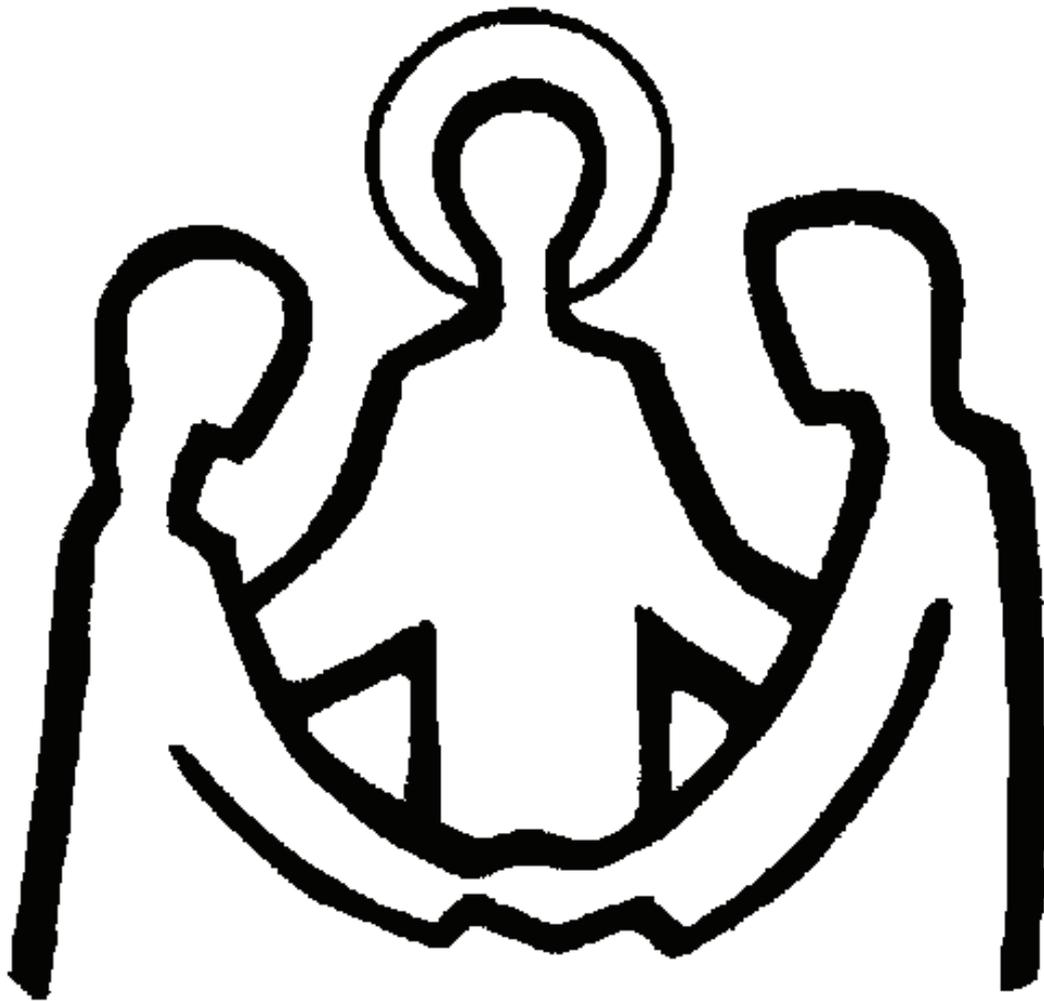


**Parish of
THE HOLY FAMILY
Mossend**



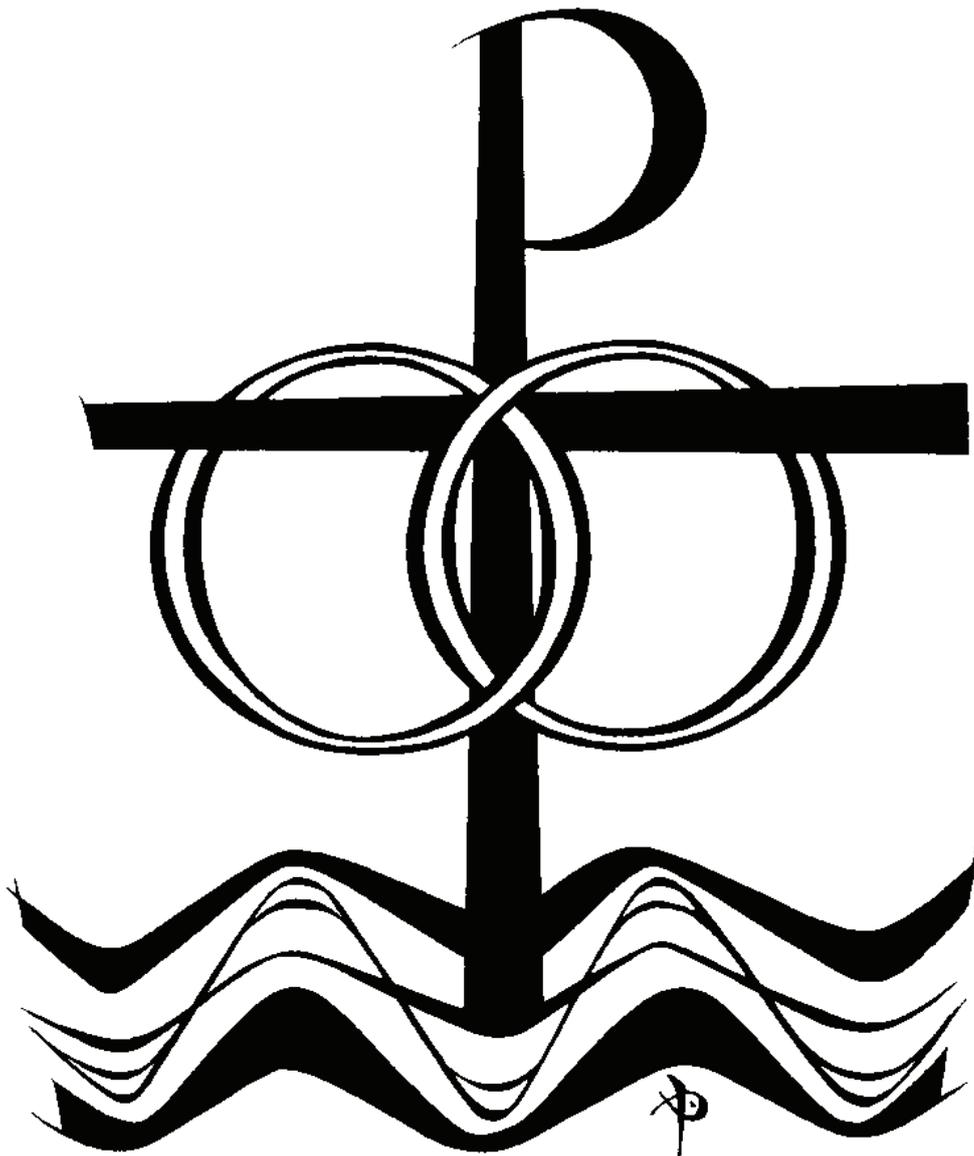
**SCRIPTURE READINGS
for the
RITE OF MARRIAGE**

BRIDE AND GROOM

BEFORE YOU BEGIN, PLEASE TAKE TIME TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING TOGETHER

Of all your wedding preparations, this is the most important, far overshadowing the design of invitations, the menu for the reception, etc., for it is in the Nuptial Mass or Marriage Service that the action really begins! It is in the Rite of Marriage that the bride and groom administer the sacrament to each other; it is not administered by the priest. Your vows of love and commitment to each other, proclaimed publicly before God and his Church, are sacred and sacramental.

Take time therefore to sit down and choose carefully what you want to hear and what you want your guests to hear on this one of the most important days of your lives.



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC WEDDING RITE

The Roman Catholic Wedding liturgy is a treasure trove of expression of the theology of the Sacrament of Marriage. From the opening procession, to the Liturgy of the Word with its Scripture readings of God's love, to the exchange of the marriage vows and rings, to the ancient nuptial blessing pronounced by the priest, the liturgy is rich in beauty and meaning.

Your planning of the liturgy is a golden opportunity to share with your loved ones an expression of your faith in God as the centre of your marriage. Your choice of Scripture readings, and hymns communicate a great deal about you as a couple, and **should be chosen together with care and prayer.**

Please read the following before you ask anyone to read at your Nuptial Mass or Marriage Service.

WHO CAN I CHOOSE TO PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD?



The first and second readings may be proclaimed by a family member, member of the wedding party, or another guest. These readers must be practising Catholics in good standing or practising (*i.e. Church going*) Christians in another Christian Church. In other words, they must believe in the Word of God and try to live their lives according to God's Word.

The following can never be allowed to proclaim the Sacred Word of God:

- **Catholics who no longer practise their faith**
- Those who never attend any church
- Non Christians (*i.e.* those of other faiths such as Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism etc.)
- Non believers (*i.e.* atheists, agnostics etc)

How many readers?

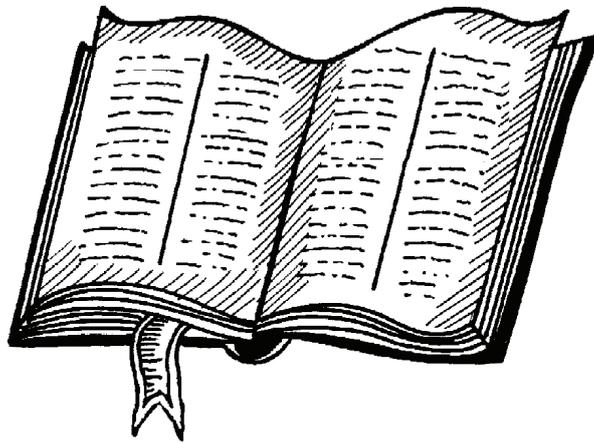
Usually one each for the Old and New Testament readings and a third person for the Prayer of the Faithful.

If it is not possible to find three suitable people who fall into the above category, then one or two people can do both readings and lead the Prayer of the Faithful.

Keep in mind the following and pass this information on to those you choose:

- Whoever you choose should have a good grasp of the principles of proclaiming the Word of God in public. Be sure to give them a copy of the reading in advance of the wedding, and encourage them to practice the reading at the ambo (lectern) in church to get the feel of the acoustics and the microphone. (The wedding rehearsal may be a good opportunity to do this or, alternatively, get them to come early to the church on the day of the wedding to practice.)
- Those reading should make themselves known to the priest before the Mass/Marriage Service.
- Although a photocopy of the reading is suitable for practising the reading, The reading at the Mass/Marriage Service must always be proclaimed from the Lectionary (the Book of Readings). This is another reason why those reading should make themselves known to the priest beforehand so that he can show them the exact place they will find the reading in the Lectionary.
- The responsorial psalm should preferably be sung, but it can be recited if necessary

FIRST READINGS
and Responsorial Psalms



From the Old Testament

OLD TESTAMENT READING (and PSALM) No. 1

A Reading from the Book of Genesis

Gen: 1:26-28.31

This reading tells us that human life comes from God and that everything about it is good. Love (especially the love between a husband and wife) is an image of God's goodness. The high point of God's creation is when He creates man and woman the commands them to continue the work of his creation through their children.

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 him,
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 of the earth.' God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: The Lord fills the earth with his love.

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.

A Reading from the Book of Genesis

Gen: 2:18-24

In this reading we learn how God creates woman to be a suitable partner for man. Man and woman belong naturally to each other—they are of the same

OLD TESTAMENT READING (and PSALM) No. 2

flesh, both are equal.

The Lord God said: **I**t is not good that 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 man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

A Psalm in Praise of God's creation

Response: Praise the name of the Lord.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Praise the Lord from the heavens,
praise him in the heights.
Praise him, all his angels,
praise him, all his host. R/. | 3. All mountains and hills,
all fruit trees and cedars,
beasts, wild and tame,
reptiles and birds on the wing. R/. |
| 2. Praise him, sun and moon,
praise him, shining stars.
Praise him, highest heavens
and the waters above the heavens. R/. | 4. All earth's kings and peoples,
earth's princes and rulers:
young men and maidens,
old men together with children. R/. |
| 5. Let them praise the name of the Lord
for he alone is exalted.
The splendour of his name
reaches beyond heaven and earth. R/. | |

A reading from the book of Genesis 24:48-51. 58-67.

Abraham's servant said to **Laban**, 'I blessed the Lord, God of my master Abraham, who had so graciously led me to choose the daughter of my master's brother for his son. Now tell me whether you are prepared to show kindness and goodness to my master; if not, say so, and I shall know what to do'

OLD TESTAMENT READING (and PSALM) No. 3

Laban and Bethuel replied, 'This is from the Lord; it is not in our power to say yes or no to you. Rebekah is there before you. Take her and go; and let her become the wife of your master's son, as the Lord has decreed.' They called Rebekah and asked her, 'Do you want to leave with this man?' 'I do,' she replied. Accordingly they let their

A Reading from the Book of Tobit

Tob. 7:6-14

This tells the story of how Raguel, Sarah's father, came to give her hand in marriage to her cousin, Tobias and prayed that God would bless them both.

Raguel kissed Tobias and wept. Then finding words, he said, 'Blessings on you, child! You are the son of a noble father. How sad it is that someone so virtuous and full of good deeds should have gone blind!' He fell on the neck of his kinsman Tobias and wept. And his wife Edna wept for him, and so did his daughter Sarah. Raguel killed a sheep from the flock, and they gave Tobias and Raphael a warm-hearted welcome. They washed and bathed and sat down to table. Then Tobias said to Raphael, 'Brother Azarias, will you ask Raguel to give me my sister Sarah?' Raguel overheard the words, and said to the young man,

OLD TESTAMENT READING (and PSALM) No. 4

'Eat and drink, and make the most of your evening; no one else has the right to take my daughter Sarah—no one but you, my brother. In any case I, for my own part, am not at liberty to give her to anyone else, since you are her next of kin. However, my boy, I must be frank with you: I have tried to find a husband for her seven times among our kinsmen, and all of them have died the first evening, on going to her room. But for the present, my boy, eat and drink; the Lord will grant you his grace and peace.' Tobias spoke out, 'I will not hear of eating and drinking till you have come to a decision about me'. Raguel answered, 'Very well. Since, as prescribed by the Book of Moses, she is given to you, heaven itself decrees she shall be yours. I shall therefore entrust your sister to you. From now you are her brother and she is your sister. She is given to you from today for ever. The Lord of heaven favour you tonight, my child, and grant you his grace and peace.' Raguel called for his daughter Sarah, took her by the hand and gave her to Tobias with these words, 'I entrust her to you; the law and the ruling recorded in the Book of Moses assign her to you as your wife. Take her; take her home to your father's house with a good conscience. The God of heaven grant you a good journey in peace.' Then he turned to her mother and asked her to fetch him writing paper. He drew up the marriage contract, how he gave his daughter as bride to Tobias according to the ordinance in the Law of Moses. After this they began to eat and drink.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: The Lord fills the earth with his love.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. 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/. | 2. 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/. |
| | 3. May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you. R/. |

A Reading from the Book of Tobit

Tob. 8:4-8

This another piece of the story of Tobias and Sarah and how they prayed together on their wedding night. It is a touching scene and one can hardly find any more appropriate petition to God for any couple on their wedding day than 'bring us to old age together'.

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.' They began praying for protection, and this is 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 the 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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING (and PSALM) No. 5

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'.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: The Lord is compassion and love.

1. 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/.*
2. 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/.*
3. 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/.*

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus

Sir. 26:1-4. 13-16

This reading tells of the happiness a good wife brings to her husband.

Happy the husband of a really good wife;
the number of his days will be doubled.
A perfect wife is the joy of her husband,
he will live out the years of his life in peace.
A good wife is the best of portions,
reserved for those who fear the Lord;
rich or poor, they will be glad of heart;
cheerful of face, whatever the season.
The grace of a wife will charm her husband,
her accomplishments will make him stronger.
A silent wife is a gift from the Lord,
no price can be put on a well-trained character.
A modest wife is a boon twice over,
a chaste character cannot be weighed on scales.
Like the sun rising over the mountains of the Lord

FIRST READING FOR EASTERTIDE (and PSALM) No. 6

is the beauty of a good wife in a well-kept house.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: I will bless the Lord at all times.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.
2. Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free.
3. Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress.
4. The angel of the Lord is encamped
around those who revere him, to rescue them.
Taste and see that the Lord is good.
He is happy who seeks refuge in him.

FIRST READING DURING EASTERTIDE The first reading during Easter according to custom, is always taken from the New Testament.

A reading from the Book of the Apocalypse

Ap. 19:1.5-9

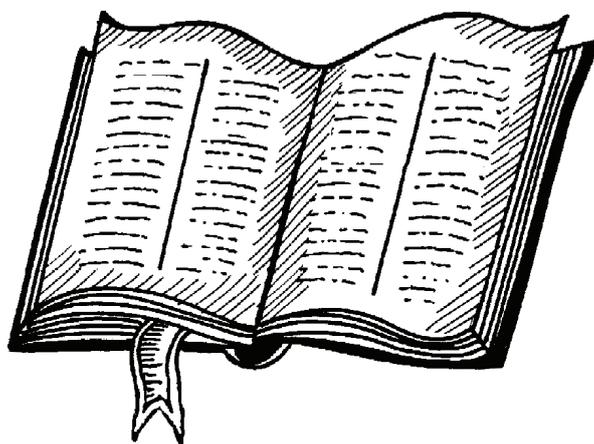
In this reading, St. John sees the end of everything like a tremendous wedding feast which lasts forever. It's the wedding of Christ and his people, the Church, and we're all invited! Your wedding will bring you closer to that.

I, John, seemed to hear the great sound of a huge crowd in heaven, singing, 'Alleluia! Victory and glory and power to our God!'

Then a voice came from the throne: it said, 'Praise our God, you servants of his and all who, great or small, revere him'. And I seemed to hear the voices of a huge crowd, like the sound of the ocean or the great roar of thunder, answering, 'Alleluia! The reign of the Lord our God Almighty has begun; let us be glad and joyful and give praise to God, because this is the time for the marriage of the Lamb. His bride is ready, and she has been able to dress herself in dazzling white linen, because her linen is made of the good deeds of the saints.' The angel said, 'Write this: Happy are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the lamb.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

SECOND READINGS



From the New Testament

NEW TESTAMENT READING No. 1

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Rom 12:1-2. 9-18

St. Paul tells us to be practical. Love can't just be in the mind - it must show itself in our bodies - i.e. in what we do. But neither can it be just an act - it must be sincere.

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

This is the word of the Lord.

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians *1 Cor. 12:31-13:8.*

A hymn in praise of love, perhaps one of the most famous passages from all of St. Paul's letters. Paul talks about a practical love, the kind of love

NEW TESTAMENT READING No. 2

that every marriage should be built on.

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians

Eph. 5:2.25-32

St. Paul gives husbands and wives an ideal to work for: the kind of love and respect there is between Christ and his bride, Church.

NEW TESTAMENT READING No 3

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 he 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

A Reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Colossians. 3:12-17.

St. Paul suggests some ways in which the message of Christ can find a home with you.

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

NEW TESTAMENT READING No. 4

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

A reading from the first letter of St. Peter. *1 Pet. 3:1-9*

St. Peter says in this reading that husbands and wives should have great consideration for one another, they should always work for harmony.

Wives should be obedient to their husbands. Then, if there are some husbands who have not yet obeyed the word, they may find themselves won over, without a word spoken, by the way their wives behave, when they see how faithful and conscientious they are. Do not dress up for show: doing up your hair, wearing gold bracelets and fine clothes; all this should be inside, in a person's heart, imperishable: the ornament of a sweet and gentle disposition—this is what is precious in the sight of God. That was how the holy women of the past dressed themselves attractively—they

NEW TESTAMENT READING No. 5

hoped in God and were tender and obedient to their husbands; like Sarah, who was obedient to Abraham, and called him her lord. You are now her children, as long as you live good lives and do not give way to fear or worry. In the same way, husbands must always treat their wives with consideration in their life together, respecting a woman as one who, though she may be the weaker partner, is equally an heir to the life of grace. This will stop anything from coming in the way of your prayers.

Finally: you should all agree among yourselves and be sympathetic; love the brothers, have compassion and be self-effacing. Never pay back one wrong with another one; instead, pay back with a blessing. That is what you are called to do, so that you inherit a blessing yourself.

This is the Word of the Lord.

A reading from the first letter of St. John. *1 John*
3:18-24.

In this reading St. John tells us that it is only by showing that our love is real that we can know where we stand with God.

My children,
our love is not to be just words or mere talk,
but something real and active;
only by this can we be certain
that we are children of the truth
and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence,
whatever accusations it may raise against us,
because God is greater than our conscience and he knows
everything.

My dear people
if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience,
we need not be afraid in God's presence,
and whatever we ask him,
we shall receive,
because we keep his commandments
and live the kind of life that he wants.
His commandments are these:
that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ
and that we love one another
as he told us to.
Whoever keeps his commandments
lives in God and God lives in him.
We know that he lives in us
by the Spirit that he has given us.

This is the Word of the Lord.

A reading from the first letter of St. John. 4:7-12

St. John tells us that we cannot see God but we can still know him—because God is love: you are called as husband and wife to be an mirror image of that love of God.

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

NEW TESTAMENT READING No. 7

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

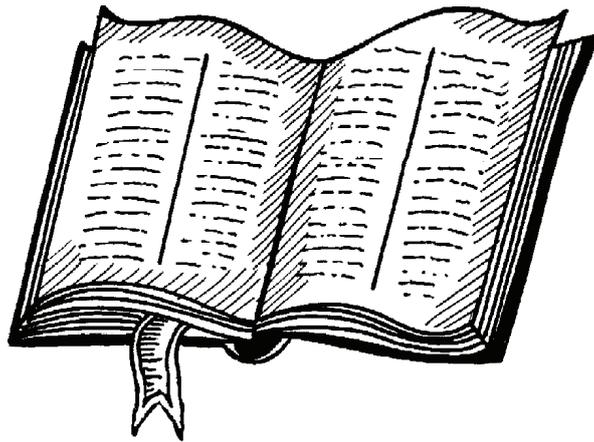


Interces-

(after the Marriage Rite)

sions

GOSPELS



GOSPEL No. 1

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.5:1-12.

Jesus describes a very deep kind of happiness: a generous kind of happiness that nothing can take away.

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew. 19:3-6.

Marriage is naturally for ever!

GOSPEL No. 2

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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew. 22:35-40.

Real love is the most important thing you can put into practice in your life; it should be behind everything you do.

GOSPEL No. 3

A lawyer, to disconcert Jesus, put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark. 10:6-9.

It is God who made man and woman for one another.

Jesus said, 'From the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So

GOSPEL No. 4

then, what God has united, man must not divide.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

2:1-11.

Jesus brings happiness to a wedding

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 stand-

GOSPEL No. 5

ing 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

15:9-12.

Jesus wants his own joy to be in us. Your happiness on your wedding day is a share in this joy - because you love one another.

Jesus said to his disciples:
'As the Father has loved me,
so I have loved you.
Remain in my love.
If you keep my commandments

GOSPEL No. 6

you will remain in my love,
just as I have kept my Father's commandments
and remain in his love.
I have told you this
so that my own joy may be in you
and your joy be complete.
This is my commandment:
love one another, as I loved you.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John. 15:12-16.

Jesus loved us enough to give his life for us. When you marry, you give the rest of your lives to one another.

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.

GOSPEL No. 7

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL No. 1

*Please announce the prayers slowly and prayerfully giving the people time to pray.
The PRAYER of the Faithful takes place in the SILENCE of their hearts.*

Invitation to Prayer - Priest

As we rejoice with and on this happy day, we know that they also need our prayers. Let us now pray for their needs, for the needs of our church and the needs of our world.

READER

- Let us pray for and that the joy which is theirs today may always remain with them throughout their married life together. *(pause)*
Lord, hear us
- We pray that their love for each other may be a constant witness to Christ's presence in their marriage. *(pause)*
Lord, hear us
- We pray that their home will always be a place of happiness, hospitality and holiness. *(pause)*
Lord, hear us
- Let us pray for all who are undergoing difficulties and problems in their marriage: that they will have the courage to face the difficulties in front of them and that their love will be deepened and strengthened. *(pause)*
Lord, hear us
- Let us pray for the families and friends of..... and: that the Lord will bless them for their goodness. *(pause)*
Lord, hear us
- Let us pray for peace in our world, in our country and in our homes: that the peace of Christ may reign in the hearts of all. *(pause)*
Lord, hear us

Concluding Prayer - priest

**Father,. We ask you to hear the prayers of your children and in your love and mercy to grant them, Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Please remain in the sanctuary until after the Concluding Prayer. Thank you.

*Please announce the prayers slowly and prayerfully giving the people time to pray.
The PRAYER of the Faithful takes place in the SILENCE of their hearts.*

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL No. 2

Invitation to Prayer - Priest

As we rejoice with and on this happy day, we know that they also need our prayers. Let us now pray for their needs, for the needs of our church and the needs of our world.

READER

- Let us pray for and that their love for each other which they seal today may be continually strengthened throughout their married life. *(pause)*
Lord, hear us
- That their home may be a place where the message of Christ's gospel may be found and shared. *(pause)*
Lord, hear us
- That, as we rejoice with and today we may also offer them our support and our prayers in their new life together. *(pause)*
Lord, hear us
- For all who are separated or divorced: for those who have been recently widowed: for all families affected by the breakdown of a marriage. *(pause)*
Lord, hear us
- For ourselves and each other: that the lives of all of us may help to mirror Christ's love for all the world. *(pause)*
Lord, hear us
- For all the dead, especially the relatives and friends of our own families: that they may share fully in the joy of eternal life. *(pause)*
Lord, hear us

Concluding Prayer - priest

Father,. We ask you to hear the prayers of your children and in your love and mercy to grant them, Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please remain in the sanctuary until after the Concluding Prayer. Thank you.

*Please announce the prayers slowly and prayerfully giving the people time to pray.
The PRAYER of the Faithful takes place in the SILENCE of their hearts.*

Invitation to Prayer - Priest

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL No. 3

As we rejoice with and on this happy day, we know that they also need our prayers. Let us now pray for their needs, for the needs of our church and the needs of our world.

READER

- We pray for the Church, the Bride of Christ—that she may remain faithful to the love which God has for her. *(pause)*
Lord, hear us
- We pray for and: that their love for one another will grow daily. *(pause)*
Lord, hear us
- We pray for all married couples: that by the example of their mutual love they will show Christ's living presence to the world. *(pause)*
Lord, hear us
- We pray for all families: that they will see Christ in each other. *(pause)*
Lord, hear us
- We pray for our society: that they will always cherish the value of married love. *(pause)*
Lord, hear us

Concluding Prayer - priest

Father,. We ask you to hear the prayers of your children and in your love and mercy to grant them, Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please remain in the sanctuary until after the Concluding Prayer. Thank you.

*Please announce the prayers slowly and prayerfully giving the people time to pray.
The PRAYER of the Faithful takes place in the SILENCE of their hearts.*

Invitation to Prayer - Priest

As we rejoice with and on this happy day, we know that they also need our prayers. Let us now pray for their needs, for the needs of our church and the needs of our world.

READER

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL No. 4

- That all Christians may reflect God's love in their lives: so may they inspire all around them to joy, love and generosity. *(pause)*
Lord, hear us
- That our leaders in the Church and in our Country may do all they can to promote strong and stable family life. *(pause)*
Lord, hear us
- For greater love and unity in all families: that we maybe ready to help one another and willing to forgive. *(pause)*
Lord, hear us
- For and: that they may be faithful to each other, enjoy the peace that comes from God and give true witness to their Christian faith. *(pause)*
Lord, hear us
- For all married people: that the Holy Spirit will renew in them the grace of the Sacrament. *(pause)*
Lord, hear us
- For the whole human family: that all men and women may work together for peace and reconciliation. *(pause)*
Lord, hear us
- That all our relatives and friends who have died may be welcomed into the joy of Christ's kingdom *(pause)*
Lord, hear us

Concluding Prayer - priest

**Father,. We ask you to hear the prayers of your children and in your love and mercy to grant them, Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Please remain in the sanctuary until after the Concluding Prayer. Thank you.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL No. 5

*Please announce the prayers slowly and prayerfully giving the people time to pray.
The PRAYER of the Faithful takes place in the SILENCE of their hearts.*

Invitation to Prayer - Priest

As we rejoice with and on this happy day, we know that they also need our prayers. Let us now pray for their needs, for the needs of our church and the needs of our world.

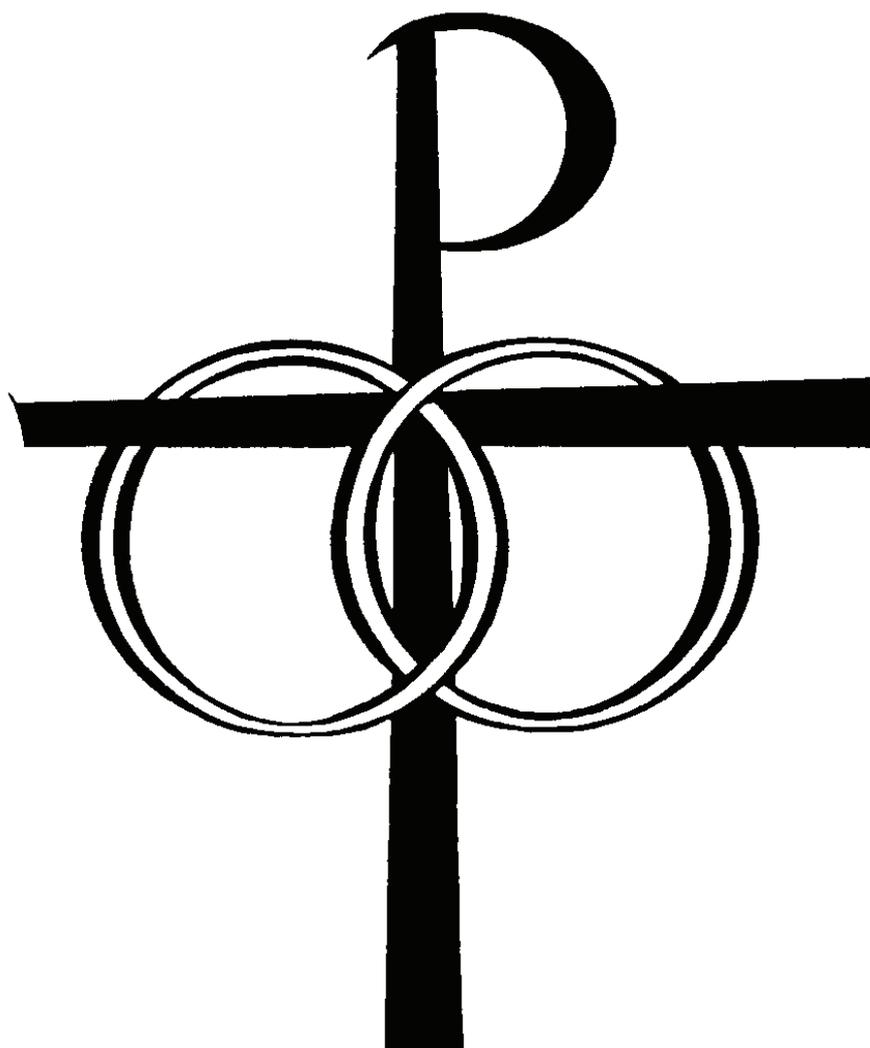
- For N. and N. that the Lord, who has brought them to this happy day, will keep them forever in fidelity and love. *(pause)*
Lord, hear us.
- For the world and its peoples that the Lord may bless them with his peace and the protection of his love. *(pause)*
Lord, hear us.
- For our community and our families, who welcome Christ into their lives that they may learn to receive him in the poor and suffering people of this world. *(pause)*
Lord, hear us.
- For God's Church, the Bride of Christ, that it may be united in faith and love. *(pause)*
Lord, hear us.
- For married couples everywhere that their lives will be an example to the world of unity, fidelity and love. *(pause)*
Lord, hear us.,
- For the faithful departed and especially for those whom we, ourselves, have loved, that God will one day unite us again in the joys of our eternal home. *(pause)*
Lord, hear us.

Concluding Prayer - priest

Father,. We ask you to hear the prayers of your children and in your love and mercy to grant them, Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please remain in the sanctuary until after the Concluding Prayer. Thank you.

The Rite of Marriage
for your information only



LITURGY OF MARRIAGE

..... and you have come together in this church so that the Lord may seal and strengthen your love. "Christ abundantly blesses this love. He has already consecrated you by 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 - before me, its minister, and with these your friends as witnesses- I ask you to state your intentions to live in lifelong fidelity to each other and to God in whose image you have been made.

The couple are now questioned regarding

1. their freedom of choice,
2. their intention to be faithfulness to each other
3. the acceptance and upbringing of any children born of the marriage

I now ask you if you undertake the obligations of marriage, freely and deliberately

1. and are you ready, freely and without reservation, to give yourselves to each other in marriage?
Bridegroom I am. Bride I am.

2. Will you love and honour each other as man and wife, for the rest of your lives?
Bridegroom I will. Bride I will.

3. Will you accept children lovingly from God and bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church?
Bridegroom I will. Bride I will.

THE CONSENT

Since it is your intention to enter into marriage, declare your consent before God and his Church.

<p style="text-align: center;">GROOM</p> <p>..... do you freely and willingly take here present, for your lawful wife according to the laws of God and of holy mother Church?</p> <p>Bridegroom I do.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BRIDE</p> <p>..... do you freely and willingly take here present, for your lawful husband according to the laws of God and of holy mother Church?</p> <p>Bride I do.</p>
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..... and join your right hands.

<p style="text-align: center;">BRIDEGROOM</p> <p>I, take you, 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 till death do us part.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BRIDE</p> <p>I, take you, 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 till death do us part.</p>
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C. You have

declared your consent before the Church.
May the Lord in his goodness
strengthen your married love.
"What God has joined together, let no man put asunder."

All: Amen.

BLESSING AND EXCHANGE OF RINGS

<p style="text-align: center;">Bridegroom</p> <p>With this ring I wed you, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bridegroom</p> <p>(This gold and silver I give you, tokens of all my worldly goods.)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bride</p> <p>With this ring I wed you, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.</p>
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MARRIAGE EXHORTATION