*(To help you in preparing your booklet, all instructions are in red.
Please do not include them in your final booklet)*

**The Order of Wedding Liturgy**

**of**

**[Name of Groom] and [Name of Bride]**

*[Date: DD, MM, YY]*

**Our Lady of Victories Parish, Horsley Park**

**The Wedding Party**

Celebrant

[Rev. NN]

Parents of the Groom Parents of the Bride

Best Man Maid of Honour

Groomsmen Bridesmaids

Ring Bearer Flower Girl

Or:

Pageboy

Singer

**INTRODUCTORY RITES**

**BRIDAL PROCESSION** *(Please stand)*

*(A hymn could be sung, or instrumental music could be played.)*

*Priest:*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*All:* **Amen.**

*Priest:* The Lord be with you.
*All:* **And with your spirit.**

**GREETING**

**UNITY CANDLE CEREMONY** (Optional – Part 1)

*(The candle ceremony is not compulsory, however if you wish to have it, you need to supply 3 candles – one for the bride’s family (with the family surname), one for the groom’s family (with the family surname) and the third, being the unity candle, with the bride and groom’s names. The candles will be placed on a special table near the sanctuary, not on the main altar.)*

*Priest:* Today [Name of Groom**]** and **[**Name of Bride**]** come here from two different families. Out of these two families, a new family will be created in the Lord. At this time, I invite the parents (or mothers) of **N** and **N** to come forward and light the individual candles which represent the two separate families.

Dear parents of **N** and **N**, on this special wedding day, we thank you for your sacrifices in bringing up your children according to our Christian faith.

May Our Lord Jesus Christ, bless you and give you true joy as you see your children become new parents and give you grandchildren. May the Lord give you health in spirit and body and lead you to the great reward waiting for you in Heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

*All:* Amen.

**OPENING PRAYER** *(Please choose one of the following prayers.)*

*Priest:* **Let us pray.
A**

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.
*All:* **Amen**

Or:

**B**

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 **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.
*All:* **Amen**

Or:

**C**

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that these your servants, **N** and **N**,
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.
*All:* **Amen**

**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

*(Please be seated)*

*(There may be up to three readings. See the separate appendix containing the Biblical Readings for Celebration of Marriage)*

**First Reading**

*Reader:* A reading from ...

*(Please select a First Reading* *from the approved choices and insert the text here)*

**Responsorial Psalm**

*(Please select a Psalm from the approved choices and insert the text here)*

**Second Reading** *(Optional)*

*Reader:* A reading from …

*(Please select a Second Reading from the approved choices and insert the text here – the Second Reading is always from the New Testament)*

*(Please stand)*

**Gospel Acclamation**

*(Please select a Gospel acclamation from the approved choices and insert the text her. Note that if your wedding is celebrated during Lent the “Alleluia” introduction is replaced with: “Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory” – Lent is the time from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday).*

**Gospel (***Read by deacon or priest)*

*Priest:* The Lord be with you

*All:* **And with your spirit.**

*Priest:* A reading from the Holy Gospel according to ...

*All:* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*(Please select a Gospel from the approved choices and insert the text here.)*

*Priest:* The Gospel of the Lord.
*All:* **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**.

*(Please be seated)*

**HOMILY**

**THE CELEBRATION OF MATRIMONY**

*Priest*: Dear friends, **N** and **N**, you have come together into the house of the Church so that in the presence of the Church's minister and this community your intention to enter into Marriage may be strengthened by the Lord with a sacred seal. Christ abundantly blesses the love that binds you. Through a special Sacrament, he enriches and strengthens those he has already consecrated by Holy Baptism, that they may be faithful to each other for ever and assume all the responsibilities of married life. And so, in the presence of the Church, I ask you to state your intentions.

*Priest:*Dear **N** and **N**, have you come here to enter into marriage without coercion, freely and wholeheartedly?

*(Each answers the questions separately.)*

*Bridegroom:* **I have**
*Bride:* **I have**

*Priest:* Are you prepared, as you follow the path of Marriage,

to love and honour each other

for as long as you both shall live?

*Bridegroom:* **I am**

*Bride:* **I am**

*Priest:* Are you prepared to accept children lovingly from God

and to bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church?

*Bridegroom:* **I am**

*Bride:* **I am**

**CONSENT**

*Priest:*Since it is your intention to enter into the covenant of Holy Matrimony, join your right hands, and declare your consent before God and his Church.

(*Please choose your preferred vows – either A or B.)*

**A**

*The bridegroom says:*

**I, N, take you, N, to be my wife.
I promise to be faithful to you,**

**in good times and in bad,
in sickness and in health.
to love you and to honour you
all the days of my life.**

*The bride says:*

**I, N, take you, N, to be my husband.
I promise to be faithful to you,**

**in good times and in bad,
in sickness and in health.
to love you and to honour you
all the days of my life.**

Or:

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.**

*Priest:* May the Lord in his kindness strengthen the consent you have both declared before the Church, and graciously bring to fulfilment his blessing within you. What God joins together, let no one put asunder.

Let us bless the Lord.
*All:* **Thanks be to God.**

Or:

*Priest:* May the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob, the God who joined together our first parents in paradise, strengthen and bless in Christ the consent you have declared before the Church, so that what God joins together, no one may put asunder.

Let us bless the Lord.
*All:* **Thanks be to God.**

**BLESSING AND GIVING OF RINGS**

**A**

*Priest:* May the Lord bless ✠ these rings
which you will give to each other

as the sign of love and fidelity.

*All:* **Amen**.

Or:

B

*Priest:* Bless, O Lord, these rings,

which we bless ✠ in your name,

so that those who wear them

may remain entirely faithful to each other,

abide in peace and in your will,

and live always in mutual charity.

Through Christ our Lord.

*All:* **Amen**.

Or:

**C**

*Priest:* Bless ✠ and sanctify your servants in their love,
O Lord, and let these rings, a sign of their faithfulness,

remind them of their love for one another.

Through Christ our Lord.

*All:* **Amen**.

*(The husband places his wife's ring on her ring finger and says:)*

**[Name if Bride], receive this ring**

**as a sign of my love and fidelity.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son,**

**and of the Holy Spirit.**
*(The wife places her husband's ring on his ring finger and says:)*

**[Name of Groom], receive this ring**

**as a sign of my love and fidelity.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son,**

**and of the Holy Spirit.**

## COVENANT DECLARATION

*(Please choose one of the following)*

**A**

My dear friends, it is my pleasure to introduce to you **N** and **N** as husband and wife. Dear **[**Name of Groom**]**, you may now kiss your wife.

Or:

**B**

Dear **N** and **N**, through the exchanging of rings and because you have expressed your love for one another in the promises you have made before God, your family and friends here today, it is at this time, that I now pronounce you husband and wife. You may now seal this sacred union with a kiss.

Or:

C

Dear N and N you are now husband and wife in the sight of God, and of His all people. Therefore, with the blessings of God, it is my pleasure to now pronounce you husband and wife. You may now kiss each other.

Or:

D

Dear N and N, you have declared your intentions and shared your consent through the exchange of vows, and indicated that through the blessing and exchange of rings; you may now wish to seal the covenant commitment that you have just made, where you have become husband and wife, through sharing a kiss.

Or:

**E**

Dear **N** and **N** through your solemn exchange of vows and your giving and receiving of rings to each other, you have declared your consent before the Lord. In his goodness, may He strengthen your consent and fill you both with His blessings. Before all here present today, I now pronounce you husband and wife. Dear **[**Name of Groom**]**, you may now kiss your wife.

## LIGHTING OF THE MARRIAGE CANDLE  *(2nd part)*

*(If the candle ceremony is taking place, the unity candle is lit at this time.)*

*Priest:* My dear **N** and **N**, as husband and wife, light your candle from the two smaller candles. The two individual flames now become one flame representing to you in a very beautiful way the symbol of two who become one.

Dear **N** and **N**, as you light this candle today, may the brightness of the flame shine throughout your lives.

O God, you have joined **N** and **N** together in marriage and surrounded them with loving family and friends. Fill their hearts with gratitude and enduring confidence. And may the joy of this day sustain them, comfort them, and bring them hope all the days of their married life. May your union be forever blessed. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

*All:* **Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL** *(Please stand)*

*(For more samples refer to pages 8 to 15 of the Nuptial Mass Appendices)*

*Read by:*

*Priest:* My dear friends, we have witnessed **N** and **N**, exchange their vows in the presence of the Lord. Let us now pray that God will bless them throughout their married life and keep them united in undivided love.

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

*All:* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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.

*All:* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

*All:* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That He will bless their parents, friends and all here present.
Let us pray to the Lord.

*All:* **Lord, hear our prayer**.

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

*All:* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

*All:* **Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

**NUPTIAL BLESSING**

*(Please choose one of the Nuptial blessings – A, B or C)*

**A**

*Priest*: Dear brothers and sisters,
let us humbly pray to the Lord that on these his servants,
**N** and **N**, now married in Christ,
he may mercifully pour out the blessings of his grace
and make of one heart in love
those he has joined by a holy covenant.

*All pray in silence.*

O God,
who by your mighty power
created all things out of nothing,
and, when you had set in place the beginnings of the universe,
formed man and woman in your own image,
making the woman an inseparable helpmate to the man,
that they might no longer be two, but one flesh,
and taught that what you were pleased to make one
must never be divided;

O God,
who consecrated the bond of Marriage by so great a mystery
that in the wedding covenant
you foreshadowed the Sacrament of Christ and his Church.

O God,
by whom woman is joined to man
and the companionship they had in the beginning
is endowed with the one blessing
not forfeited by original sin nor washed away by the flood.

Look now with favour upon 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, **N**, 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 **N** and **N**,
hold fast to the faith and keep your commandments;
made one in the flesh, may they be blameless in all they do;
and with the strength that comes from the Gospel,
may they bear true witness to Christ before all;
may they be blessed with children,
and prove themselves virtuous parents,
who live to see their children's children.

And grant that,
reaching at last together the fullness of years
for which they hope,
they may come to the life of the blessed
in the Kingdom of Heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.

*All:* **Amen.**

Or:

B

Let us pray to the Lord for this bride and groom,
who come to the altar as they begin their married life,
that they may always be bound together by love for one another.

*All pray in silence.*

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 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.

*All:* **Amen.**

Or:

C

Let us humbly invoke by our prayers, dear brothers and sisters,
God's blessings 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.*

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.
*All:* **Amen**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

*Priest:* At the Saviour’s command and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say:

*All:* **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.**

**SOLEMN BLESSING**

*(Please choose one of the solemn blessings – A, B or C)*

*Priest:* The Lord be with you

*All:* **And with your spirit.**

*Priest:* Bow down for the 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.
*All:*  **Amen.**

May you be blessed in your children,
have solace in your friends and enjoy true peace with everyone.
*All:*  **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.
*All:*  **Amen.**

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

Or:

B

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

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

May the Holy Spirit of God
always pour forth his love into your hearts.
*All:* **Amen**

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

Or:

C

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

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

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

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

**DISMISSAL**

*Priest*: Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life and your love.

*All:*  **Thanks be to God.**

*(Optional)*

**DEDICATION
OF NEWLY MARRIED COUPLE
TO THE HOLY FAMILY**

Lord Jesus, on this happy and holy day we thank you for the joy of our marriage. Through all the years of our life you have watched over us and bring us together in holy catholic marriage. Now Lord, we ask you to bless us, and keep us united in love of you and of each other.

Redeemed by your [Precious Blood](http://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=9585) and strengthened by your grace, in this Sacrament of Matrimony may we live in kindness and fidelity, in unfailing trust and love, so that our whole [life](http://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=7101) may be pleasing to you.

Holy Mary, who with [Joseph](http://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=6477) made a happy home at [Nazareth](http://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=8359) for Jesus, take us into your motherly care. You who showed concern for a newly married couple at Cana, assist us and guide us to your son, Jesus.

Holy Family of Nazareth; Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendour of true love, to you we turn with our trust.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer. Amen.

*Hail Mary ...*

**SIGNING OF THE REGISTER** *(Please be seated)*

*(After the liturgy, the wedding couple, the witnesses, usually the best man and maid of honour, and priest sign the Marriage Record, in the presence of the people, not on the altar but on a special table near the sanctuary. A hymn could be sung, or instrumental music could be played at this time.)*

**RECESSIONAL** *(Please stand)*

*(A hymn could be sung, or instrumental music could be played)*

*(Welcome the Bride and Groom)*

*Optional*

[THANKSGIVING WORDS]

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