

# **The Order for the Celebration of Holy Matrimony**

*for use by the Ordinariates erected under the auspices of  
the Apostolic Constitution Anglicanorum cœtibus*

# The Order for the Celebration of Holy Matrimony

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### **Introduction**

1. Married Christians, in virtue of the sacrament of Holy Matrimony, signify and share in the mystery of that unity and fruitful love which exists between Christ and his Church;<sup>1</sup> they help each other to attain to holiness in their married life and in the rearing and education of their children; and they have their own special gift among the people of God.<sup>2</sup>

"The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring; this covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament."<sup>3</sup>

2. In celebrating the sacrament of Holy Matrimony, Christians proclaim the communion of love between Christ and the Church and ask God's blessing on the new couple that their nuptial union might be the sacramental sign of this same love. *The Order for the Celebration of Holy Matrimony* for use by the Ordinariates erected under the auspices of the Apostolic Constitution *Anglicanorum coetibus* gives expression to the Anglican liturgical patrimony which has nourished many in their faith in the nuptial covenant between God and his people and has promoted the good ends of married life. Its use is therefore restricted to those clergy and faithful who belong to one of the Personal Ordinariates established under the Apostolic Constitution *Anglicanorum coetibus*.<sup>4</sup>

3. In cases of pastoral necessity or in the absence of a priest or deacon incardinated in an Ordinariate, any priest or deacon incardinated in a Diocese or in an Institute of Consecrated Life or Society of Apostolic Life may preside over the rite of Marriage according to *The Order for the Celebration of Holy Matrimony* for members of the Ordinariate who request it.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Ephesians 5:32.

<sup>2</sup> 1 Corinthians 7:7. Cf. Second Ecumenical Council of the Vatican, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen gentium*, no. 11.

<sup>3</sup> CIC, Can. 1055 §1. Cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1601 and Second Ecumenical Council of the Vatican, Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, *Gaudium et spes*, no. 48.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. Pope Benedict XVI, Apostolic Constitution *Anglicanorum coetibus*, no. III.

<sup>5</sup> Cf. Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Complementary Norms to the Apostolic Constitution *Anglicanorum coetibus*, no. 6 §2.

4. “In the Latin Rite the celebration of marriage between two Catholic faithful normally takes place during Holy Mass, because of the connection of all the sacraments with the Paschal mystery of Christ. In the Eucharist the memorial of the New Covenant is realized, the New Covenant in which Christ has united himself for ever to the Church, his beloved bride for whom he gave himself up. It is therefore fitting that the spouses should seal their consent to give themselves to each other through the offering of their own lives by uniting it to the offering of Christ for his Church made present in the Eucharistic sacrifice, and by receiving the Eucharist so that, communicating in the same Body and the same Blood of Christ, they may form but ‘one body’ in Christ.”<sup>6</sup>

5. In marriages between a Catholic and a baptized person who is not Catholic, the rite of Marriage is normally celebrated outside Mass. Should pastoral circumstances suggest, the rite of Marriage within Mass may be used except that, according to the universal law of the Church, Holy Communion is not given to the non-Catholic spouse. In a marriage between a Catholic and a person who is not baptized, Holy Matrimony is celebrated outside Mass.

6. When two or more marriages are solemnized during the same celebration, the exchange of consent shall be done separately.

7. *The Order for the Celebration of Holy Matrimony* has been arranged in three sections: The Celebration of Holy Matrimony within a Nuptial Mass; the Celebration of Holy Matrimony outside Mass; and the Celebration of Holy Matrimony between a Catholic and a non-baptized person.

### ***The Celebration of Holy Matrimony***

8. “According to the Latin tradition, the spouses as ministers of Christ’s grace mutually confer upon each other the sacrament of Matrimony by expressing their consent before the Church.”<sup>7</sup> The priest or deacon who presides over the rite of Marriage witnesses the couple’s exchange of consent and receives that consent in the name of the Church.

9. The celebration of Holy Matrimony is permitted, but not encouraged during Advent or Lent, on Ember days or on other days of penance. The couple should be advised to take into consideration the particular nature of these liturgical times, which requires moderating the external elements, such as flowers and decorations in the church. The celebration of a Holy Matrimony is not permitted during the Paschal Triduum.

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<sup>6</sup> *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1621. Cf. 1 Corinthians 10:17.

<sup>7</sup> *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1623.

10. When Holy Matrimony is celebrated during Mass, the choice of the Mass formulary is regulated according to the Roman Ritual, *Rite of Marriage*, no. 34.

11. Wherever other praiseworthy customs and ceremonies are used in the celebration of the sacrament of Holy Matrimony, it is fitting that they be retained. The custom at the giving of the rings may be retained, whereby the ring is placed first over the thumb, and then over the second, third and fourth finger, as the words "*in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit*" are spoken. Similarly, when the priest joins the right hands of the husband and wife, he may wrap the end of his stole around the joined hands as he proclaims, "*Those whom God hath joined, etc.*"

12. The use of "Holy Ghost" instead of "Holy Spirit" is permitted according to local custom.

13. For any circumstances that are not covered in this Order, reference should be made to the Roman Ritual, *Rite of Marriage*.

# **The Celebration of Holy Matrimony within a Nuptial Mass**

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*At the day and time appointed, the persons to be married come into the  
body of the Church with their friends and neighbours, and there stand  
together, the man on the right hand and the woman on the left.*

*The Admonition and Scrutiny follow immediately.*

## **Admonition and Scrutiny**

*The Priest shall say:*

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here in the sight of God and in the presence of this congregation, to witness the joining together of this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony; which is an honourable estate, instituted of God himself, signifying unto us the mystical union that is betwixt Christ and his Church; which holy estate Christ adorned and beautified with his presence, and first miracle that he wrought, in Cana of Galilee, and is commended in Holy Writ to be honourable among all men; and therefore is not by any to be enterprised, nor taken in hand, unadvisedly, lightly, or wantonly; but reverently, discreetly, soberly, and in the fear of God, duly considering the causes for which Matrimony was ordained.

First, it was ordained for the increase of mankind according to the will of God, and that children might be brought up in the fear and nurture of the Lord, and to the praise of his holy Name.

Secondly, it was ordained in order that the natural instincts and affections, implanted by God, should be hallowed and directed aright; that those who are called of God to this holy estate, should continue therein in pureness of living.

Thirdly, it was ordained for the mutual society, help, and comfort, that the one ought to have of the other, both in prosperity and adversity.

Into which holy estate these two persons present come now to be joined.

Therefore if any one can show any just cause, why they may not lawfully be joined together, let him now speak, or else hereafter for ever hold his peace.

***Speaking to the persons that shall be married the Priest shall say:***

I require and charge you both, as you will answer at the dreadful day of judgment when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed, that if either of you know of any impediment, why you may not be lawfully joined together in Matrimony, do you now confess it. For be you well assured, that so many as are coupled together otherwise than God's Holy Church doth allow are not joined together by God; neither is their Matrimony lawful in the sight of God.

***At which day of Marriage, if anyone does allege and declare any impediment, why they may not be coupled together in Matrimony, by God's law, or by the laws of the nation, then the solemnization must be deferred, until such time as the truth be ascertained.***

***If no impediment has been alleged, Mass begins with the Introit, and the Greeting.***

***Greeting***

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

***People***

**And with thy spirit.**

***The Kyrie eleison is sung or said. The Gloria in excelsis follows when not proscribed.***

***The Collect follows.***

## Liturgy of the Word

*The Liturgy of the Word is celebrated according to the rubrics. There may be three readings, the first of them from the Old Testament.*

*After the Gospel, the Priest or Deacon gives a homily drawn from the sacred text. He speaks about the mystery of Christian marriage, the dignity of wedded love, the grace of the sacrament and the responsibilities of married people, keeping in mind the circumstances of this particular marriage.*

## Solemnization of Holy Matrimony

### *Profession of Intention*

*With the couple standing before him, the Priest or Deacon shall say to the man:*

*N*, wilt thou have this woman to thy wedded wife, to live together according to God's ordinance in the holy estate of Matrimony? Wilt thou love her, comfort her, honour and keep her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all other, keep thee only unto her, so long as you both shall live?

*The man shall answer:*

I will.

*The Priest or Deacon shall then say to the woman:*

*N*, wilt thou have this man to thy wedded husband, to live together according to God's ordinance in the holy estate of Matrimony? Wilt thou obey him, and serve him, love, honour, and keep him in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all other, keep thee only unto him, so long as you both shall live?

*Or:*

*N*, wilt thou have this man to thy wedded husband, to live together according to God's ordinance in the holy estate of Matrimony? Wilt thou love him, comfort him, honour and keep him, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all other, keep thee only unto him, so long as you both shall live?

***The woman shall answer:***

I will.

***The following questions shall be omitted where the woman is past child-bearing.***

***N***, wilt thou, with her, accept lovingly from God the children with which he will deign to bless you, and nurture and educate them in accordance with the law of God and of his holy Church?

***The man shall answer:***

I will.

***N***, wilt thou, with him, accept lovingly from God the children with which he will deign to bless you, and nurture and educate them in accordance with the law of God and of his holy Church?

***The woman shall answer:***

I will.

***The Priest or Deacon may receive the woman at her father's or her friend's hand. In this case, the Priest or Deacon says:***

Who giveth this woman to be married to this man?

***Exchange of Consent***

***The man and the woman shall give their troth to each other in this manner.***

***The Priest or Deacon shall cause the man with his right hand to take the woman by her right hand, and to say after him as follows:***

I, ***N***, take thee, ***N***, to my 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 us do part, according to God's holy law; and thereto I plight thee my troth.

*Then shall they loose their hands; and the woman, with her right hand taking the man by his right hand, shall likewise say after the Priest or Deacon, one or other of these vows:*

I, **N**, take thee, **N**, to my 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, cherish, and to obey, till death us do part, according to God's holy law; and thereto I give thee my troth.

*Or:*

I, **N**, take thee, **N**, to my 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 us do part, according to God's holy law; and thereto I give thee my troth.

*Then the Priest or Deacon says:*

In the sight of God and in the presence of this congregation, I witness and receive the consent of this couple in the name of the Church.

*Then they shall again loose their hands.*

### *Blessing and exchange of rings*

*The ring or rings shall be passed to the Priest or Deacon for blessing.*

*The Priest or Deacon shall say:*

Bless, ✠ O Lord, this ring, and grant that he who gives it and she who shall wear it may remain faithful to each other, and abide in thy peace and favour, and live together in love until their lives' end. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Or:*

Bless, ✠ O Lord, these rings, and grant that they who give and receive them may remain faithful to each other, and abide in thy peace and favour, and live together in love until their lives' end. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*He sprinkles the ring[s] with holy water.*

*And the Priest or Deacon, taking the ring, shall give it to the man, to put it upon the fourth finger of the woman's left hand. And the man, holding the ring there, and taught by the Priest or Deacon, shall say:*

With this ring I thee wed; with my body I thee worship; and all my worldly goods with thee I share: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*Likewise, the woman may receive the ring for the bridegroom and shall put it on her husband's ring finger, saying:*

With this ring I thee wed; with my body I thee worship; and all my worldly goods with thee I share: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*Then they shall both kneel down, but the people shall remain standing.*

*Then shall the Priest or Deacon join their right hands together, and say:*

Those whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder.

*Then shall the Priest or Deacon say to the people:*

Forasmuch as **N** and **N** have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and thereto have given and pledged their troth either to other, and have declared the same by giving and receiving of a ring [*or rings*], and by joining of hands; I pronounce that they be man and wife together, In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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*Then the Prayers of the Faithful may be said.*

## Liturgy of the Eucharist

*The bridegroom and the bride shall take their place at the entrance of the sanctuary while a hymn or a psalm is sung or said. The psalms in the Appendix are particularly suitable.*

*The bridegroom and bride or friends of the couple may bring forward bread and wine for the celebration of the Eucharist.*

*The proper Preface is said.*

*When the Roman Canon is used, the proper form of the Hanc igitur is said.*

## Nuptial Blessing

*After the Our Father, the prayer Deliver us shall be omitted. The Priest, standing and facing the bride and bridegroom, shall invoke upon them God's blessing and this never shall be omitted.*

*The bride and bridegroom shall approach the altar or, if appropriate, they shall remain kneeling at their place.*

## Form A

O eternal God, Creator and Preserver of all mankind, giver of all spiritual grace, the author of everlasting life: send thy blessing upon these thy servants, this man and this woman, whom we bless ☩ in thy Name; that, living faithfully together, they may surely perform and keep the vow and covenant betwixt them made, whereof the ring **[or rings]** given and received is a token **[are tokens]** and pledge; and may ever remain in perfect love and peace together, and live according to thy laws; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The following shall be omitted, where the woman is past child-bearing.*

O merciful Lord and heavenly Father, by whose gracious gift mankind is increased; bestow, we beseech thee, upon these two persons the heritage and gift of children; and grant that they may see their children christianly and virtuously brought up to thy praise and honour, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***The prayer continues:***

O God, who hast taught us that it should never be lawful to put asunder those whom thou by Matrimony hadst made one, and hast consecrated the state of Matrimony to such an excellent mystery, that in it is signified and represented the spiritual marriage and unity betwixt Christ and his Church: Look mercifully upon these thy servants, that both this man may love his wife, according to thy Word, as Christ did love his spouse the Church, who gave himself for her, loving and cherishing her even as his own flesh, and also that this woman may be loving and amiable, and faithful to her husband, and in all quietness, sobriety, and peace, be a follower of holy and godly women. O Lord, bless them both, and grant them to inherit thy everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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***Form B***

O eternal God, Creator and Preserver of all mankind, giver of all spiritual grace, the author of everlasting life: send thy blessing upon these thy servants, this man and this woman, whom we bless ✠ in thy Name; that, living faithfully together, they may surely perform and keep the vow and covenant betwixt them made, whereof the ring **[or rings]** given and received is a token **[are tokens]** and pledge; and may ever remain in perfect love and peace together, and live according to thy laws; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***The following shall be omitted, where the woman is past child-bearing.***

O Almighty God, Creator of mankind, who only art the wellspring of life; bestow upon these thy servants, if it be thy will, the gift and heritage of children; and grant that they may see their children brought up in thy faith and fear, to the honour and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***The prayer continues:***

O God, who hast so consecrated the state of Matrimony that in it is represented the spiritual marriage and unity betwixt Christ and his Church; look mercifully upon these thy servants, that they may love, honour, and cherish each other, and so live together in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and of peace; through the same Jesus Christ our

Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit ever, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

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***All stand. The Priest shall say to the people:***

***People***

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And with thy spirit.**

***Then the Deacon, or Priest, shall add:***

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

***Then the bride and bridegroom and all present shall offer one another a sign, in keeping with local customs.***

***Final Blessing***

***The Priest shall bless the couple, saying:***

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, ✠ preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favour look upon you; and so fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace, that you may so live together in this life, that in the world to come you may have life everlasting. **Amen.**

***Or:***

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, pour upon you the riches of his grace, sanctify and bless ✠ you, that you may please him both in body and soul, and live together in holy love unto your lives' end. **Amen.**

***The Priest shall bless the congregation, saying:***

The blessing of God almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

# **The Celebration of Holy Matrimony outside Mass**

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*At the day and time appointed, the persons to be married shall come into  
the body of the Church with their friends and neighbours, and there stand  
together, the man on the right hand and the woman on the left.*

*The Admonition and Scrutiny follow immediately.*

## **Admonition and Scrutiny**

*The Priest or Deacon shall say:*

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here in the sight of God and in the presence of this congregation, to witness the joining together of this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony; which is an honourable estate, instituted of God himself, signifying unto us the mystical union that is betwixt Christ and his Church; which holy estate Christ adorned and beautified with his presence, and first miracle that he wrought, in Cana of Galilee, and is commended in Holy Writ to be honourable among all men; and therefore is not by any to be enterprised, nor taken in hand, unadvisedly, lightly, or wantonly; but reverently, discreetly, soberly, and in the fear of God, duly considering the causes for which Matrimony was ordained.

First, it was ordained for the increase of mankind according to the will of God, and that children might be brought up in the fear and nurture of the Lord, and to the praise of his holy Name.

Secondly, it was ordained in order that the natural instincts and affections, implanted by God, should be hallowed and directed aright; that those who are called of God to this holy estate, should continue therein in pureness of living.

Thirdly, it was ordained for the mutual society, help, and comfort, that the one ought to have of the other, both in prosperity and adversity.

Into which holy estate these two persons present come now to be joined.

Therefore if any one can show any just cause, why they may not lawfully be joined together, let him now speak, or else hereafter for ever hold his peace.

***Speaking to the persons that shall be married the Priest or Deacon shall say:***

I require and charge you both, as you will answer at the dreadful day of judgment when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed, that if either of you know of any impediment, why you may not be lawfully joined together in Matrimony, do you now confess it. For be you well assured, that so many as are coupled together otherwise than God's Holy Church doth allow are not joined together by God; neither is their Matrimony lawful in the sight of God.

***At which day of Marriage, if anyone does allege and declare any impediment, why they may not be coupled together in Matrimony, by God's law, or by the laws of the nation, then the solemnization must be deferred, until such time as the truth be ascertained.***

### ***Greeting***

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

***People***

**And with thy spirit.**

### ***Collect***

Let us pray.

**O GOD** our Father, who by thy holy Apostle hast taught us that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant to these thy servants, **N** and **N**, that, loving one another, they may continue in thy love unto their lives' end; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God world without end. **Amen.**

**Or:**

**O ETERNAL** God, we humbly beseech thee, favourably to behold these thy servants, **N** and **N**, about to be joined in wedlock according to thy holy ordinance; and grant that they, seeking first thy kingdom and thy righteousness, may obtain the manifold blessings of thy grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God world without end. **Amen.**

**Or:**

**O GRACIOUS** and ever-living God, who hast created us male and female in thine own image: look mercifully upon **N** and **N** who come before thee seeking thy blessing, and assist them with thy grace; that with utmost fidelity and steadfast love they may honour and keep the promises and vows they make; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God world without end. **Amen.**

## **Liturgy of the Word**

*Then one (or more) of the passages from Holy Scripture in the Appendix is read.*

## **Homily**

*After the Gospel, the Priest or Deacon gives a homily drawn from the sacred text. He speaks about the mystery of Christian marriage, the dignity of wedded love, the grace of the sacrament and the responsibilities of married people, keeping in mind the circumstances of this particular marriage.*

## **Solemnization of Holy Matrimony**

### ***Profession of Intention***

***If no impediment has been alleged, with the couple standing before him, the Priest or Deacon shall say to the man.***

***N***, wilt thou have this woman to thy wedded wife, to live together according to God's ordinance in the holy estate of Matrimony? Wilt thou love her, comfort her, honour and keep her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all other, keep thee only unto her, so long as you both shall live?

***The man shall answer:***

I will.

***The Priest or Deacon shall then say to the woman:***

***N***, wilt thou have this man to thy wedded husband, to live together according to God's ordinance in the holy estate of Matrimony? Wilt thou obey him, and serve him, love, honour, and keep him in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all other, keep thee only unto him, so long as you both shall live?

***Or:***

***N***, wilt thou have this man to thy wedded husband, to live together according to God's ordinance in the holy estate of Matrimony? Wilt thou love him, comfort him, honour and keep him, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all other, keep thee only unto him, so long as you both shall live?

***The woman shall answer:***

I will.

***The following questions shall be omitted where the woman is past child-bearing.***

***N***, wilt thou, with her, accept lovingly from God the children with which he will deign to bless you, and nurture and educate them in accordance with the law of God and of his holy Church?

***The man shall answer:***

I will.

**N**, wilt thou, with him, accept lovingly from God the children with which he will deign to bless you, and nurture and educate them in accordance with the law of God and of his holy Church?

***The woman shall answer:***

I will.

***The Priest or Deacon may receive the woman at her father's or her friend's hand. In this case, the Priest or Deacon says:***

Who giveth this woman to be married to this man?

### ***Exchange of Consent***

***The man and the woman shall give their troth to each other in this manner.***

***The Priest or Deacon shall cause the man with his right hand to take the woman by her right hand, and to say after him as follows:***

I, **N**, take thee, **N**, to my 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 us do part, according to God's holy law; and thereto I plight thee my troth.

***Then shall they loose their hands; and the woman, with her right hand taking the man by his right hand, shall likewise say after the Priest or Deacon, one or other of these vows:***

I, **N**, take thee, **N**, to my 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, cherish, and to obey, till death us do part, according to God's holy law; and thereto I give thee my troth.

***Or:***

I, **N**, take thee, **N**, to my 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 us do part, according to God's holy law; and thereto I give thee my troth.

***Then the Priest or Deacon says:***

In the sight of God and in the presence of this congregation, I witness and receive consent of this couple in the name of the Church.

***Then they shall again loose their hands.***

### ***Blessing and exchange of rings***

***The ring or rings shall be passed to the Priest or Deacon for blessing.***

***The Priest or Deacon shall say:***

Bless, ✠ O Lord, this ring, and grant that he who gives it and she who shall wear it may remain faithful to each other, and abide in thy peace and favour, and live together in love until their lives' end. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***Or:***

Bless, ✠ O Lord, these rings, and grant that they who give and receive them may remain faithful to each other, and abide in thy peace and favour, and live together in love until their lives' end. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***He sprinkles the ring[s] with holy water.***

***And the Priest or Deacon, taking the ring, shall give it to the man, to put it upon the fourth finger of the woman's left hand. And the man, holding the ring there, and taught by the Priest or Deacon, shall say:***

With this ring I thee wed; with my body I thee worship; and all my worldly goods with thee I share: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

***Likewise the woman may receive the ring for the bridegroom and shall put it on her husband's ring finger, saying:***

With this ring I thee wed; with my body I thee worship; and all my worldly goods with thee I share: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

***Then they shall both kneel down; but the people shall remain standing. Then shall the Priest or Deacon say:***

O eternal God, Creator and Preserver of all mankind, giver of all spiritual grace, the author of everlasting life: send thy blessing upon these thy servants, this man and this woman, whom we bless ✠ in thy Name; that, living faithfully together, they may surely perform and keep the vow and covenant betwixt them made, whereof this ring [*or these rings*] given and received is a token [*are tokens*] and pledge; and may ever remain in perfect love and peace together, and live according to thy laws; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***Then shall the Priest or Deacon join their right hands together, and say:***

Those whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder.

***Then shall the Priest or Deacon speak to the people:***

Forasmuch as *N* and *N* have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and thereto have given and pledged their troth either to other, and have declared the same by giving and receiving of a ring [*or rings*], and by joining of hands; I pronounce that they be man and wife together, In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

***And the Priest or Deacon shall add this Blessing:***

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, ✠ preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favour look upon you; and so fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace, that you may so live together in this life, that in the world to come you may have life everlasting. **Amen.**

## *Blessing of the Marriage*

*The bridegroom and the bride shall take their place at the entrance of the sanctuary while a hymn or a psalm is sung or said. The psalms in the Appendix are particularly suitable.*

*The Psalm ended, the people kneeling, and the man and the woman kneeling before the Altar, the Priest or Deacon standing at the Altar, and turning to face them, shall say:*

Let us pray.

*People* Lord, have mercy upon us.  
**Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

*People* **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. Amen.**

*People* O Lord, save thy servant, and thy handmaid;  
**who put their trust in thee.**

*People* O Lord, send them help from thy holy place;  
**and evermore defend them.**

*People* Be unto them a tower of strength;  
**from the face of their enemy.**

*People* O Lord, hear our prayer,  
**and let our cry come unto thee.**

O God of our fathers, bless these thy servants, and sow the seed of eternal life in their hearts; that whatsoever in thy holy Word they shall profitably learn, they may in deed fulfil the same; that so, obeying thy will, and always being in safety under thy protection, they may abide in thy love unto their lives' end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Form A**

***The following shall be omitted, where the woman is past child-bearing.***

O merciful Lord and heavenly Father, by whose gracious gift mankind is increased; bestow, we beseech thee, upon these two persons the heritage and gift of children; and grant that they may see their children christianly and virtuously brought up to thy praise and honour, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***The prayer continues:***

O God, who hast taught us that it should never be lawful to put asunder those whom thou by Matrimony hadst made one, and hast consecrated the state of Matrimony to such an excellent mystery, that in it is signified and represented the spiritual marriage and unity betwixt Christ and his Church: Look mercifully upon these thy servants, that both this man may love his wife, according to thy Word, as Christ did love his spouse the Church, who gave himself for her, loving and cherishing her even as his own flesh, and also that this woman may be loving and amiable, and faithful to her husband, and in all quietness, sobriety, and peace, be a follower of holy and godly women. O Lord, bless them both, and grant them to inherit thy everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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**Form B**

***The following shall be omitted, where the woman is past child-bearing.***

O Almighty God, Creator of mankind, who only art the wellspring of life; bestow upon these thy servants, if it be thy will, the gift and heritage of children; and grant that they may see their children brought up in thy faith and fear, to the honour and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***The prayer continues:***

O God, who hast so consecrated the state of Matrimony that in it is represented the spiritual marriage and unity betwixt Christ and his Church; look mercifully upon these thy servants, that they may love, honour, and cherish each other, and so live together in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a

haven of blessing and of peace; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit ever, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

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*Then shall the Priest or Deacon say this Blessing:*

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Pour upon you the riches of his grace, sanctify and bless ✠ you, that you may please him both in body and soul, and live together in holy love unto your lives' end. **Amen.**

*All stand. Then the Priest or Deacon shall dismiss those that are gathered, saying:*

Let us pray.

O almighty Lord, and everlasting God, vouchsafe, we beseech thee, to direct, sanctify, and govern, both our hearts and bodies, in the ways of thy laws, and in the works of thy commandments; that through thy most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The blessing of God almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

# **The Celebration of Holy Matrimony between a Catholic and a non-baptised person**

*for use by the Ordinariates erected under the auspices of the Apostolic Constitution Anglicanorum cœtibus*

*At the day and time appointed, the persons to be married shall come into the body of the Church with their friends and neighbours, and there standing together, the man on the right hand and the woman on the left.*

*The Admonition and Scrutiny follow immediately:*

## **Admonition and Scrutiny**

*The Priest or Deacon shall say:*

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here in the sight of God and in the presence of this congregation, to witness the joining together of this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony; which is an honourable estate, instituted of God himself; which holy estate Christ adorned and beautified with his presence, and first miracle that he wrought, in Cana of Galilee, and is commended in Holy Writ to be honourable among all men; and therefore is not by any to be enterprised, nor taken in hand, unadvisedly, lightly, or wantonly; but reverently, discreetly, soberly, and in the fear of God, duly considering the causes for which Matrimony was ordained.

First, it was ordained for the increase of mankind according to the will of God, and that children might be brought up in the fear and nurture of the Lord, and to the praise of his holy Name.

Secondly, it was ordained in order that the natural instincts and affections, implanted by God, should be hallowed and directed aright; that those who are called of God to this holy estate, should continue therein in pureness of living.

Thirdly, it was ordained for the mutual society, help, and comfort, that the one ought to have of the other, both in prosperity and adversity.

Into which holy estate these two persons present come now to be joined.

Therefore if any one can show any just cause, why they may not lawfully be joined together, let him now speak, or else hereafter for ever hold his peace.

***Speaking to the persons that shall be married the Priest or Deacon shall say:***

I require and charge you both, as you will answer at the dreadful day of judgment when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed, that if either of you know of any impediment, why you may not be lawfully joined together in Matrimony, do you now confess it. For be you well assured, that so many as are coupled together otherwise than God's Holy Church doth allow are not joined together by God; neither is their Matrimony lawful in the sight of God.

***At which day of Marriage, if anyone does allege and declare any impediment, why they may not be coupled together in Matrimony, by God's law, or by the laws of the nation, then the solemnization must be deferred, until such time as the truth be ascertained.***

### ***Greeting***

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

***People*** **And with thy spirit.**

### ***Collect***

Let us pray.

**O GOD** our Father, who by thy holy Apostle hast taught us that love is the fulfilling of the law: Grant to these thy servants, **N** and **N**, that, loving one another, they may continue in thy love unto their lives' end; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God world without end. **Amen.**

*Or:*

**O ETERNAL** God, we humbly beseech thee, favourably to behold these thy servants, **N** and **N**, about to be joined in wedlock according to thy holy ordinance; and grant that they, seeking first thy kingdom and thy righteousness, may obtain the manifold blessings of thy grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God world without end. **Amen.**

*Or:*

**O GRACIOUS** and ever-living God, who hast created us male and female in thine own image: look mercifully upon **N** and **N** who come before thee seeking thy blessing, and assist them with thy grace; that with utmost fidelity and steadfast love they may honour and keep the promises and vows they make; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God world without end. **Amen.**

## **Liturgy of the Word**

*Then one (or more) of the passages from Holy Scripture in the Appendix is read.*

## **Homily**

## **Solemnization of Holy Matrimony**

### **Profession of Intention**

*If no impediment has been alleged, with the couple standing before him, the Priest or Deacon shall say to the man:*

**N**, wilt thou have this woman to thy wedded wife, to live together according to God's ordinance in the holy estate of Matrimony? Wilt thou love her, comfort her, honour and keep her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all other, keep thee only unto her, so, long as you both shall live?

*The man shall answer:*

I will.

***The Priest or Deacon shall then say to the woman:***

**N**, wilt thou have this man to thy wedded husband, to live together according to God's ordinance in the holy estate of Matrimony? Wilt thou obey him, and serve him, love, honour, and keep him in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all other, keep thee only unto him, so long as you both shall live?

***Or:***

**N**, wilt thou have this man to thy wedded husband, to live together according to God's ordinance in the holy estate of Matrimony? Wilt thou love him, comfort him, honour and keep him, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all other, keep thee only unto him, so, long as you both shall live?

***The woman shall answer:***

I will.

***The following questions shall be omitted where the woman is past child-bearing.***

**N**, wilt thou, with her, accept lovingly from God the children with which he will deign to bless you, and nurture and educate them in accordance with the law of God and of his holy Church?

***The man shall answer:***

I will.

**N**, wilt thou, with him, accept lovingly from God the children with which he will deign to bless you, and nurture and educate them in accordance with the law of God and of his holy Church?

***The woman shall answer:***

I will.

***The Priest or Deacon may receive the woman at her father's or her friend's hand. In this case, the Priest or Deacon says:***

Who giveth this woman to be married to this man?

## ***Exchange of Consent***

***The man and the woman shall give their troth to each other in this manner.***

***The Priest or Deacon shall cause the man with his right hand to take the woman by her right hand, and to say after him as follows:***

I, **N**, take thee, **N**, to my 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 us do part, according to God's holy law; and thereto I plight thee my troth.

***Then shall they loose their hands; and the woman, with her right hand taking the man by his right hand, shall likewise say after the Priest or Deacon, one or other of these vows:***

I, **N**, take thee, **N**, to my 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, cherish, and to obey, till death us do part, according to God's holy law; and thereto I give thee my troth.

***Or:***

I, **N**, take thee, **N**, to my 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 us do part, according to God's holy law; and thereto I give thee my troth.

***Then the Priest or Deacon says:***

In the sight of God and in the presence of this congregation, I witness and receive consent of this couple in the name of the Church.

***Then they shall again loose their hands.***

## ***Blessing and exchange of rings***

***The ring or rings shall be passed to the Priest or Deacon for blessing.***

***The Priest or Deacon shall say:***

Bless, ✠ O Lord, this ring, and grant that he who gives it and she who shall wear it may remain faithful to each other, and abide in thy peace and favour, and live together in love until their lives' end. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***Or:***

Bless, ✠ O Lord, these rings, and grant that they who give and receive them may remain faithful to each other, and abide in thy peace and favour, and live together in love until their lives' end. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***He sprinkles the ring[s] with holy water.***

***And the Priest or Deacon, taking the ring, shall give it to the man, to put it upon the fourth finger of the woman's left hand. And the man, holding the ring there, and taught by the Priest or Deacon, shall say:***

With this ring I thee wed; with my body I thee worship; and all my worldly goods with thee I share: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

***Likewise the woman may receive the ring for the bridegroom and shall put it on her husband's ring finger, saying:***

With this ring I thee wed; with my body I thee worship; and all my worldly goods with thee I share: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

***Then they shall both kneel down; but the people shall remain standing. Then shall the Priest or Deacon join their right hands together, and say:***

Those whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder.

***Then shall the Priest or Deacon speak to the people:***

Forasmuch as **N** and **N** have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and thereto have given and pledged their troth either to other, and have declared the same by giving and receiving of a ring [*or rings*], and by joining of hands; I pronounce that they be man and wife together, In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*And the Priest or Deacon shall add this Blessing:*

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, ✠ preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favour look upon you; and so fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace, that you may so live together in this life, that in the world to come you may have life everlasting. **Amen.**

### *Blessing of the Marriage*

*The bridegroom and the bride shall take their place before the Priest or Deacon. A hymn or a psalm is sung or said. The Priest or Deacon shall say:*

Let us pray.

*People* Lord, have mercy upon us.  
**Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

*People* **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. Amen.**

*People* O Lord, save thy servant, and thy handmaid;  
**who put their trust in thee.**

*People* O Lord, send them help from thy holy place;  
**and evermore defend them.**

*People* Be unto them a tower of strength;  
**from the face of their enemy.**

*People* O Lord, hear our prayer,  
**and let our cry come unto thee.**

O God of our fathers, bless these thy servants, and sow the seed of eternal life in their hearts; that whatsoever in thy holy Word they shall profitably learn, they may in deed fulfil the same; that so, obeying thy will, and always being in safety under thy protection, they may abide in thy love unto their lives' end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The following prayer shall be omitted, where the woman is past child-bearing.*

O merciful Lord and heavenly Father, by whose gracious gift mankind is increased; bestow, we beseech thee, upon these two persons the heritage and gift of children; and grant that they may see their children christianly and virtuously brought up to thy praise and honour, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Or:*

O Almighty God, Creator of mankind, who only art the wellspring of life; bestow upon these thy servants, if it be thy will, the gift and heritage of children; and grant that they may see their children brought up in thy faith and fear, to the honour and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*And then the Priest or Deacon shall dismiss those that are gathered, saying:*

Let us pray.

O almighty Lord, and everlasting God, vouchsafe, we beseech thee, to direct, sanctify, and govern, both our hearts and bodies, in the ways of thy laws, and in the works of thy commandments; that through thy most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The blessing of God almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## Appendix

### *Psalms for the Procession of Bridegroom and Bride to the Sanctuary*

*If distances permit such a procession, one of the following psalms may be sung.*

#### **Psalm 128**

##### *Beati omnes*

- 1 Blessed are all they that fear the Lord:  
and walk in his ways.
- 2 For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands:  
O well is thee, and happy shalt thou be.
- 3 Thy wife shall be as the fruitful vine:  
upon the walls of thine house;
- 4 Thy children like the olive-branches:  
round about thy table.
- 5 Lo, thus shall the man be blessed:  
that feareth the Lord.
- 6 The Lord from out of Sion shall so bless thee:  
that thou shalt see Jerusalem in prosperity all thy life long;
- 7 Yea, that, thou shalt see thy children's children:  
and peace upon Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen.

## **Psalm 67**

### ***Deus misereatur***

- 1 GOD be merciful unto us, and bless us:  
and shew us the light of his countenance,  
and be merciful unto us.
- 2 That thy way may be known upon earth:  
thy saving health among all nations.
- 3 Let the people praise thee, O God:  
yea, let all the people praise thee.
- 4 O let the nations rejoice and be glad:  
for thou shalt judge the folk righteously,  
and govern the nations upon earth.
- 5 Let the people praise thee, O God:  
yea, let all the people praise thee.
- 6 Then shall the earth bring forth her increase:  
and God, even our own God, shall give us his blessing.
- 7 God shall bless us:  
and all the ends of the world shall fear him.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :  
world without end. Amen.

## **Psalm 37:3-7**

### ***Spera in Domino***

- 3 Put thou thy trust in the Lord, and be doing good:  
dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.
- 4 Delight thou in the Lord:  
and he shall give thee thy heart's desire.
- 5 Commit thy way unto the Lord, and put thy trust in him:  
and he shall bring it to pass.
- 6 He shall make thy righteousness as clear as the light:  
and thy just dealing as the noon-day.
- 7 Hold thee still in the Lord:  
and abide patiently upon him.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen.

***Readings from Holy Scripture for the Liturgy of the Word***

**Genesis 1:26-28, 31a ("Male and female he created them.")**

**Genesis 2:18-24 ("They become one flesh.")**

**Tobit 8:4b-8 ("Grant that I may grow old together with her.")**

**Song of Solomon 2:8-10, 14, 16a; 8:6-7ab ("For love is strong as death.")**

**1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8a ("If I have not love, I gain nothing.")**

**Ephesians 3:14-19 ("To know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge.")**

**Ephesians 5:2a, 21-33 ("This is a great mystery, and I mean in reference to Christ and the Church.")**

**Colossians 3:12-17 ("Above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.")**

**1 John 4:7-12 ("God is love.")**

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**Between the Readings, a psalm, hymn, or anthem may be sung or said. Appropriate Psalms are 67, 127, and 128.**

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**Matthew 5:1-12a ("Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.")**

**Matthew 5:13-16 ("You are the light of the world.")**

**Matthew 7:21, 24-29 (He built his house upon the rock.)**

**Mark 10:6-9 ("They are no longer two but one flesh.")**

**John 15:9-12 ("Abide in my love.")**