

The Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass

When a Catholic marries someone who is unbaptised the liturgy reflects the hopes and belief of the couple. This means that some elements in this liturgy may be omitted or shortened.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

The Introductory Rites help the people come together as one community of prayer.

ENTRANCE PROCESSION *all stand*
The bridal party enter in procession.

INTRODUCTION
The minister welcomes everyone to the celebration and invites all present to pray for and support the couple.

THE COLLECT
After the Introduction the minister, says:

Let us pray.
And all pray in silence with the minister for a while.
Then the minister says the Collect prayer, at the end of which the people acclaim:

Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

All listen to one or more readings from Sacred Scripture which express the Church's understanding of marriage.

FIRST READING *all sit*
To indicate the end of the reading, the reader acclaims:
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM
After the First Reading the psalmist or cantor sings or says the Psalm, with the people making the response.

SECOND READING
There may also be a second reading. It concludes with the same response as above.

GOSPEL *all stand*
The assembly stands to sing the Gospel Acclamation to welcome the Gospel. They remain standing in honour of the Gospel reading, the high point of the Liturgy of the Word.

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel
according to N.
Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end of the Gospel, the Deacon, or the Priest, acclaims:

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE HOMILY *all sit*
At the end of the Homily it is appropriate for there to be a brief silence for recollection.

THE CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE

God disposed man and woman for each other so that they might be 'no longer two but one'. In this way they are to live in love, be fruitful, and this way become a sign of God himself, who is nothing but overflowing love.

INTRODUCTION *all stand*

THE QUESTIONS BEFORE THE CONSENT
The minister asks the couple about their freedom of choice, fidelity to each other, and the acceptance and upbringing of children.

THE CIVIL DECLARATION OF FREEDOM
The couple declare their freedom to marry.

THE CONSENT
The couple give their consent to one another, pledging to love and cherish their spouse for ever.

THE RECEPTION OF THE CONSENT
The minister prays for the couple. He then invites those present to praise God.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE BLESSING AND GIVING OF RINGS
The couple exchange rings as a sign of their marriage.

HYMN
A hymn may be sung.

THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL
After each intention there is a pause while the faithful pray.
Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.
The minister concludes the Prayer with a collect.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

The final blessing brings the liturgy to a conclusion. It sends people out to continue the celebration.

BLESSING
May almighty God bless all of you,
who are gathered here,
the Father, and the Son,
and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.
The blessing may be followed by a final hymn.

THE LORD'S PRAYER
God the Father wills that his children be of one heart in charity;
let those who are Christian call upon him in the prayer of God's family,
which our Lord Jesus Christ has taught us:
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

THE NUPTIAL BLESSING
The minister prays for and blesses the couple so that they may grow in love and fidelity. The prayer may be omitted.
At the end of the long prayer the people acclaim:
Amen.