

[This is one a series of templates for Wedding Order of Services from the Liturgy Office website. This version provides the text for the Wedding Mass with all the people's responses included for where many of those attending may be unfamiliar with participating in Mass. It should be adapted according to different circumstances.]

The text is given as an A4 document and may need to be rearranged to make a booklet. Notes on the text will be found in the 'comments' – which should not be included in the final printing. This introductory note should also be deleted.

(www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/Marriage)]*

[Cover]

The Wedding of [A.B.] and [C.D.]

At the Church of [XXX]

Date

The Order of Celebrating Matrimony within Mass

The Introductory Rites

The Introductory Rites help the faithful come together as one, establish communion and prepare themselves properly to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist worthily.

Commented [MF1]: These brief commentaries at the beginning of each section are intended to help both Catholics and non-Catholic enter into the celebration.

Entrance Procession All stand

The bridal party enter in procession.

[Music Reference]

Commented [MF2]: Replace with a reference to the music accompanying the Entrance Procession (e.g. Wedding March – Mendelssohn). This may be omitted.

Hymn

[Hymn text]

Commented [MF3]: There may be a hymn at this point, or sometimes it is placed after the Greeting. The text should be included. You may need to include a copyright acknowledgment at the end.

Sign of the Cross

All make the Sign of the Cross as the Priest says.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The people reply:

Amen.

Greeting

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

Commented [MF4]: The Priest may guide you as to which Greeting he will use. Then the others may be omitted.

Or:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Or:

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Introduction

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

The Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.**

Commented [MF5]: This may be replaced by music for a sung setting.

**We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.**

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

The Collect

When this hymn is concluded, the Priest, says:
Let us pray.

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

The Liturgy of the Word

By hearing the word proclaimed in worship, the faithful again enter into the unending dialogue between God and the covenant people, a dialogue sealed in the sharing of the Eucharistic food and drink.

First Reading All sit

[Reading Reference]

To indicate the end of the reading, the reader acclaims:
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm [no.]

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

[Psalm Response]

Second Reading

[Reading Reference]

To indicate the end of the reading, the reader acclaims:
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Commented [MF6]: Include the reference: e.g. 'Genesis 1:26-28, 31'
It may also be helpful to include the caption, e.g. 'Male and female he created them.'
It is not good practice to include the full text of the reading.

Commented [MF7]: Replace with Psalm no. e.g. 'Psalm 127'

Commented [MF8]: Include Psalm response, e.g. 'O blessed are those who fear the Lord!' This may be replaced by a musical setting.

Commented [MF9]: Some Weddings will not have a Second reading. If so this text is omitted up to 'Gospel Acclamation'

Commented [MF10]: See note on First Reading

Gospel Acclamation

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.

[Acclamation text]

Commented [MF11]: The Gospel Acclamation text should be included, e.g. 'Alleluia...'; in Lent other texts are used.

Gospel

[Reading Reference]

Commented [MF12]: See note on First Reading.

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to [N.]

Commented [MF13]: Replace with name of Gospel writer: Matthew, Mark, or John.

The Deacon, or the Priest, makes the Sign of the Cross on the book and, together with the people, on his forehead, lips, and breast. At the same time the people acclaim:

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 Matrimony

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 Priest asks the couple about their freedom of choice, fidelity to each other, and the acceptance and upbringing of children.

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 Priest prays for the couple. He then invites those present to praise God.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Commented [MF14]: This may be replaced by a sung acclamation by all the people

The Blessing and Giving of Rings

The couple exchange rings as a sign of their marriage.

Hymn

[Hymn text]

The Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful)

After each intention there is a pause while the faithful pray.

The minister says:

Lord, in your mercy,

All reply:

Hear our prayer.

The Priest concludes the Prayer with a collect. Following this the people sit.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

For Catholics, the Eucharist is the source and summit of the whole Christian life. It is the vital centre of all that the Church is and does, because at its heart is the real presence of the crucified, risen and glorified Lord, continuing and making available his saving work among us.

During the Offertory Song the gifts of bread and wine for the celebration of the Eucharist are brought to the altar.

[Text of Offertory Song]

When he has received the bread and wine for the celebration, the Priest offers prayer of blessing quietly at the altar. Sometimes these prayers are said aloud. If the priest says the prayers aloud the assembly's acclamation each time is

Blessed be God for ever.

The Priest completes additional personal preparatory rites, and the people stand as he says:

Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),
that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good
and the good of all his holy Church.**

Then the Priest says the Prayer over the Offerings, at the end of which the people acclaim:

Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Eucharistic Prayer, the center and summit of the entire celebration is a memorial proclamation of praise and thanksgiving for God's work of salvation, a proclamation in which the Body and

Commented [MF15]: There is an option to include a hymn at this point. Where this is included the text should be placed here. It may be necessary to include copyright details in the acknowledgments.

Commented [MF16]: A different form of invitation and response may be used.

Commented [MF17]: When a hymn is sung at this point the text is included here. It may be necessary to include copyright details in the acknowledgments.

Blood of Christ are made present by the power of the Holy Spirit and the people are joined to Christ in offering his Sacrifice to the Father.

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

The Priest continues with the Preface.

The Priest concludes the Preface with the people, singing or saying aloud:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Priest continues with the Eucharistic Prayer.

After the words of Consecration, the priest says:

The mystery of faith.

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.**

Or:

**When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.**

Or:

**Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.**

At the conclusion of the prayer the Priest takes the chalice and the paten with the host and, raising both, he alone says:

Through him, and with him, and in him,

O God, almighty Father,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all glory and honour is yours,

for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Communion Rite

The eating and drinking together of the Lord's Body and Blood in a Paschal meal is the culmination of the Eucharist. The themes underlying these rites are the mutual love and reconciliation that are both the condition and the fruit of worthy communion and the unity of the many in the One.

Commented [MF18]: This may be replaced by music for a sung setting.

Commented [MF19]: Your Priest or musician may advise you which acclamation will be used and the other two may be omitted. This may be replaced by music for a sung setting.

The Lord's Prayer all stand

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

**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 Priest prays for and blesses the couple so that they may grow in love and fidelity. At the end of the long prayer the people acclaim:

Amen.

The Sign of Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And with your spirit.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All offer one another the customary sign of peace.

Breaking of the Bread

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.

Invitation to Communion all kneel

After his private prayers of preparation, the Priest genuflects, takes the host and, holding it slightly raised above the paten or above the chalice says aloud:

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.**

Commented [MF20]: This may be replaced by music for a sung setting.

Communion

After the priest has reverently consumed the Body and Blood of Christ the communicants come forward in reverent procession, and make a preparatory act of reverence by bowing their head in honor of Christ's presence in the Sacrament.

If you are not a Catholic and wish to come forward for a blessing, please join the Communion Procession and when approaching the minister place your arms across your chest to indicate your desire for a blessing.

The Priest says:

The Body of Christ.

Amen.

[When Communion is ministered under both kinds the minister of the Chalice offers it to each of the communicants, saying:

The Blood of Christ.

Amen.

[Communion Song]

After the distribution of Communion, if appropriate, a sacred silence may be observed for a while, or a psalm or other canticle of praise or a hymn may be sung.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

All stand and pray in silence. Then the Priest says the Prayer after Communion, at the end of which the people acclaim:

Amen.

[Thanksgiving Hymn]

The Concluding Rites

The brief Concluding Rite sends the people forth to put into effect in their daily lives the Mystery of Christ's Death and Resurrection and the unity in Christ which they have celebrated. Their mission is to witness to Christ in the world and to bring the Gospel to the poor.

Any brief announcements to the people follow here. Then the dismissal takes place. Sometimes this takes a more elaborate form than that given below.

Blessing

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Commented [MF21]: When Communion is only to be distributed under one kind the text is omitted up to Communion Song.

Commented [MF22]: Where there is a song, hymn or chant sung to accompany the Communion Procession this is included here.
It may be necessary to include copyright details in the acknowledgments.

Commented [MF23]: Where there is a hymn after Communion it is included here. This may also be the place for a final hymn.
It may be necessary to include copyright details in the acknowledgments.

Dismissal

Then the Deacon, or the Priest himself says:

Go forth, the Mass is ended.

Or:

Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

Or:

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

Or:

Go in peace.

Thanks be to God.

Recessional

[Music Reference]

Signing of the License

The couple, witnesses and Priest sign the License. This is done apart from the service itself. It is not to be done on the altar.

Acknowledgements

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***Edits have been made to represent the celebration in the United States of America.**

Commented [MF24]: Your Priest may advise you which text will be used and the others may be omitted.

Commented [MF25]: Replace with a reference to the music accompanying the Recessional (e.g. Wedding March – Mendelssohn). This may be omitted.

Commented [MF26]: It is proper that texts (and music where notation is included) should be acknowledged. The text given is for the liturgical texts. The parish may have a copyright license the details of which may need to be included. Your Priest or musician will be able to advise you.