

[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 Celebration with all the people's responses included for where many of those attending may be unfamiliar with participating in Catholic Weddings. 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 without 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 if the Processional was instrumental, 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 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.

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]

Gospel

[Reading Reference]

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to [N]

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.

Commented [MF5]: 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 [MF6]: Replace with Psalm no. e.g. 'Psalm 127'

Commented [MF7]: Include Psalm response, e.g. 'O blessed are those who fear the Lord!' This may be replaced by a musical setting.

Commented [MF8]: Some Weddings will not have a Second reading. If so this text is omitted up to 'Gospel Acclamation'

Commented [MF9]: See note on First Reading

Commented [MF10]: The Gospel Acclamation text should be included, e.g. 'Alleluia...'; in Lent other texts are used.

Commented [MF11]: See note on First Reading.

Commented [MF12]: Replace with name of Gospel writer: Matthew, Mark, or John.

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 [MF13]: This may be replaced by a sung acclamation

The Blessing and Giving of Rings

The couple exchange rings as a sign of their marriage.

Hymn

[Hymn text]

Commented [MF14]: 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.

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.

Commented [MF15]: A different form of invitation and response may be used.

All reply:

Hear our prayer.

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

The Lord's Prayer

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 Concluding Rites

The brief Concluding Rite sends the people forth to put into effect what they have received

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.

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 [MF16]: Your Priest may advise you which text will be used and the others may be omitted.

Commented [MF17]: Replace with a reference to the music accompanying the Recessional (e.g. Wedding March – Mendelssohn). This may be omitted.

Commented [MF18]: 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.