

## **Address and Examination**

There are three suggested forms:

### **1**

• Priest:

Dear children of God, you have come to this church so that the Lord may seal your love in the presence of the priest and this community.

Christian marriage is a sacred union which enriches natural love. It binds those who enter it to be faithful to each other for ever; it creates between them a bond that endures for life and cannot be broken; it demands that they love and honour each other, (that they accept from God the children he may give them, and bring them up in his love). To help them in their marriage, the husband and wife receive the life-long grace of the sacrament.

Is this your understanding of marriage?

Bride and Groom: It is.

### **2**

• Priest:

Dear children of God, you have come to this church so that the Lord may seal your love in the presence of the priest and this community. Christ blesses this love. He has already consecrated you in baptism; now, by a special sacrament, he strengthens you to fulfil the duties of your married life.

N. and N., you are about to celebrate this sacrament. Have you come here of your own free will and choice and without compulsion to marry each other?

Bride and Groom: We have.

Priest: Will you love and honour each other in marriage all the days of your life?

Bride and Groom: We will.

Priest: Are you willing to accept with love the children God may send you, and bring them up in accordance with the law of Christ and his Church? (These words may be omitted if the couple are advanced in years.)

Bride and Groom: We are.

### **3**

• Priest:

Dear children of God, you have come today to pledge your love before God and before the Church here present today in the person of the priest, your families and friends.

In becoming husband and wife you give yourselves to each other for life. You promise to be true and faithful, to support and cherish each other until death, so that your years together will be the living out in love of the pledge you now make. May your love for each other reflect the enduring love of Christ for his Church.

As you face the future together, keep in mind that the sacrament of marriage unites you with Christ, and brings you, through the years, the grace and blessing of God our Father. Marriage is from God: he alone can give you the happiness which goes beyond human expectation, and which grows deeper through the difficulties and struggles of life.

Put your trust in God as you set out together in life. Make your home a centre of Christian family life. (In this you will bequeath to your children a heritage more lasting than temporal wealth.)

The Christian home makes Christ and his Church present in the world of everyday things. May all who enter your home find there the presence of the Lord: for he has said: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Now as you are about to exchange your marriage vows, the Church wishes to be assured that you appreciate the meaning of what you do, and so I ask you:

Have you come here of your own free will and choice and without compulsion to marry each other?

Bride and Groom: We have.

Priest: Will you love and honour each other in marriage all the days of your life?

Bride and Groom: We will.

Priest: Are you willing to accept with love the children God may send you, and bring them up in accordance with the law of Christ and his Church? (These words may be omitted if the couple are advanced in years.)

Bride and Groom: We are.

### **Declaration of Consent**

There are four suggested forms:

**1**

**Priest:** I invite you then to declare before God and his Church your consent to become husband and wife.

Groom: N., do you consent to be my wife?

Bride: I do. Do you, N., consent to be my husband?

Groom: I do. I take you as my wife,  
and I give myself to you as your husband

Bride: I take you as my husband,  
and I give myself to you as your wife

Both:

- to love each other truly,  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
till death do us part. (Or: all the days of our life.)

Priest:

What God joins together man must not separate.

May the Lord confirm the consent that you have given, and enrich you with his blessings.

## 2

**Priest:** I invite you then to declare before God and his Church your consent to become husband and wife.

Groom:

I, N., take you N., as my wife,  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
till death us do part. (Or: all the days of our life.)

Bride:

I, N., take you, N., as my husband,  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
till death us do part. (Or: all the days of our life.)

Priest: What God joins together man must not separate.  
May the Lord confirm the consent that you have given,  
and enrich you with his blessings.

## 3

**Priest:** I invite you then to declare before God and his Church your consent to become husband and wife.

Priest: N., do you take N., as your wife,  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
till death do you part? (Or: all the days of our life.)

Groom: I do.

Priest: N., do you take N., as your husband,  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
till death do you part? (Or: all the days of our life.)

Bride: I do.

Priest: What God joins together man must not separate. May the Lord confirm the consent that you have given,  
and enrich you with his blessings.

#### **4**

**Priest:** I invite you then to declare before God and his Church your consent to become husband and wife.

Groom: N., do you consent to be my wife?

Bride: I do.

Bride: N., do you consent to be my husband?

Groom: I do.

Both:

We take each other as husband and wife and promise to love each other truly  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
till death us do part. (Or: all the days of our life.)

Priest: The Lord has joined you together. May he fulfil his blessing in you, may he keep you in his love.

#### **Blessing and exchange of the ring(s)**

There are four suggested forms:

##### **1**

Priest: May the Lord bless this ring (these rings), which will be the sign of your love and fidelity

All: Amen

##### **2**

Priest: Lord, bless N. and N. (Christian names) and consecrate their married life. May this ring (these rings) be a symbol of their faith in each other and a reminder of their love. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

##### **3**

Priest: Lord, bless these rings. Grant that those who wear them may always be faithful to each other. May they do your will and live in peace with you in mutual love. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

##### **4**

Priest: Almighty God, bless this ring (these rings) symbol(s) of faithfulness and unbroken love. May N. and N. always be true to each other, may they be one in heart and mind, may they be united in love forever, through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Groom:

N, wear this ring as a sign of our faithful love.

In the name of the Father

and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Bride:

N, wear this ring as a sign of our faithful love.

In the name of the Father

and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

## **Prayer of the newly married couple**

*The couple are recommended to say together the following or some similar prayer:*

We thank you, Lord,  
and we praise you  
for bringing us  
to this happy day.

You have given us to each other.  
Now, together, we give ourselves to you.

We ask you Lord:  
make us one in our love:  
keep us one in your peace.

Protect our marriage.  
Bless our home.  
Make us gentle.  
Keep us faithful.  
And when life is over  
unite us again  
where parting is no more  
in the kingdom of your love.

There we will praise you  
in the happiness and peace  
of our eternal home.  
Amen.

*Alternatively, the prayer may be said before or after the prayer after communion.*