

Order of Celebrating Matrimony — Marriage Texts

Notes

In this document are given the main texts of the Celebration of Marriage:

- The Questions before Consent
- The Civil Declaration of Freedom*
- The Consent*
- [The Reception of Consent — *omitted here*]
- The Blessing and Giving of Rings*

In England and Wales part of the text is laid down by the state and is as required for a civilly recognised marriage. For these text (the Civil Declaration of Freedom and the beginning of the Consent) couples have a choice as to which form of the text is used.

Note that in the civil texts A.B. and C.D. indicate the full names of bride and groom as given on the notice of registration. For other texts, N., indicates that just the first names may be used.

There is a choice of texts for the Blessing and Giving of Rings.

The texts of the Civil Declaration of Freedom and the Consent are available as card from the Liturgy Office website for those couples who wish to say the texts directly rather than repeat them after the Priest.

The Questions before the Consent

60. The Priest then questions them about their freedom of choice, fidelity to each other, and the acceptance and upbringing of children, and each responds separately.

N. and N., have you come here to enter into Marriage
without coercion,
freely and wholeheartedly?

The bridegroom and bride each say:

I have.

Addressing the bridegroom, the Priest says:

N., are you resolved to take N. to be your wife:
to love her, comfort her, honour and protect her,
and forsaking all others, to be faithful to her
as long as you both shall live?

The bridegroom replies:

I am

Next the Priest, asks the bride:

N., are you resolved to take N. to be your husband:
to love him, comfort him, honour and protect him,
and forsaking all others, to be faithful to him
as long as you both shall live?

The bride replies:

I am

The following question may be omitted, if circumstances suggest this, for example, if the couple are advanced in years.

Are you prepared to accept children lovingly from God
and to bring them up
according to the law of Christ and his Church?

The bridegroom and bride each say:

I am.

The Civil Declaration of Freedom

60a. The law of England and Wales require the couple to make a declaration of their freedom to marry, in one of the following forms. Names and surnames must be used.

Form A

First, the Priest asks the bridegroom:

Are you, **A.B.**, free lawfully to marry **C.D.**?

The bridegroom replies:

I am.

Next, the Priest asks the bride:

Are you, **C.D.**, free lawfully to marry **A.B.**?

The bride replies:

I am.

Or:

Form B

The bridegroom reads the following or repeats the words after the Priest:

I do solemnly declare
that I know not of any lawful impediment why I, **A.B.**,
may not be joined in matrimony to **C.D.**

The bride reads the following or repeats the words after the Priest.

I do solemnly declare
that I know not of any lawful impediment why I, **C.D.**,
may not be joined in matrimony to **A.B.**

Or:

Form C

The bridegroom says:

I declare that I know of no legal reason why I, **A.B.**,
may not be joined in marriage to **C.D.**

The bride says:

I declare that I know of no legal reason why I, **C.D.**,
may not be joined in marriage to **A.B.**

The Consent

61. The Priest invites them to declare their consent:

Since it is your intention to enter the covenant of Holy Matrimony,
join your right hands and declare your consent
before God and his Church.

They join their right hands.

62. The couple face each other. The groom and bride read the following, or repeat the words after the Priest. Names and surnames must be used.

Form A

The bridegroom says:

I call upon these persons here present to witness
that I, **A.B.**, do take thee, **C.D.**,
to be my lawful 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 do us part.

The bride says:

I call upon these persons here present to witness
that I, **C.D.**, do take thee, **A.B.**,
to be my lawful 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 do us part.

Or:

Form B

The bridegroom says:

I, **A.B.**, take you (thee), **C.D.**, to be 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 do us part.

The bride says:

I, **C.D.**, take you (thee), **A.B.**, to be 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 do us part.

The Blessing and Giving of Rings

66. The Priest says:

May the Lord bless ✠ these rings,
which you will give to each other
as a sign of love and fidelity.

℟. Amen

Other formulas for blessing the rings, nos. 229-230.

Bless, O Lord, these rings, 229
which we bless ✠ in your name,
so that those who wear them
may remain entirely faithful to each other,
abide in peace and in your will,
and live always in mutual charity.
Through Christ our Lord.

Or:

Bless ✠ and sanctify your servants 230
in their love, O Lord,
and let these rings, a sign of their faithfulness,
remind them of their love for one another.
Through Christ our Lord.

He sprinkles the rings, as the circumstances so suggest, and gives them to the bride and bridegroom.

67. The husband places his wife's ring on her ring finger, saying, as the circumstances so suggest:

N., I give you this ring as a sign of our marriage:
with my body I honour you,
all that I am I give to you,
and all that I have I share with you,
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen

Likewise, the wife places her husband's ring on his ring finger, saying, as the circumstances so suggest:

N., I give you this ring as a sign of our marriage:
with my body I honour you,
all that I am I give to you,
and all that I have I share with you,
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen

Or:

The husband places his wife's ring on her ring finger, saying, as the circumstances so suggest:

N., receive this ring
as a sign of my love and fidelity.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Likewise, the wife places her husband's ring on his ring finger, saying, as the circumstances so suggest:

N., receive this ring
as a sign of my love and fidelity.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.