

Order of Celebrating Matrimony — Prayer Texts

Notes

The following texts are mostly taken from the *Order of Celebrating Matrimony*, Chapter V *Various Texts to be Used in the Rite of Marriage and in the Mass for the Celebration of Marriage*. The texts are also found in the *Roman Missal* and this arrangement has been used here. Some texts have been omitted, such as the Nuptial Blessings, as they provided elsewhere.

The prayers used in the liturgy are a source for the theology of the celebration and so are offered here to enable reflection upon the meaning of the Rite.

They may also be considered when preparing the liturgy but often, the principal celebrant (e.g. the Priest) will choose which of these texts are used.

When may the texts be used?

These texts are normally used at a Wedding Mass. However on some days in the liturgical year the texts of that day will take precedence and must be used.

- Solemnities (*these include*: the Epiphany, St Peter & St Paul (29 June), The Assumption (15 August))
- Sundays of Advent, Lent & Easter
- Easter Triduum
- Easter Octave
- Ash Wednesday, All Souls, Weekdays in Holy Week

It is possible for a Wedding to take place at a normal Sunday Mass and where that happens the texts of the Sunday take precedence.

There are 3 sets of Mass texts. Texts may be selected from any of the sets e.g. one of the Collects from A, may be used with the Preface from C etc.

What texts may be used when Marriage is celebrated without Mass?

The majority of texts in this document are intended for use solely at Mass. For Marriages without Mass only the Collect is necessary (and possibly the Entrance Antiphon). Any of the 6 Collects may be chosen.

V. For the Celebration of Marriage

Whenever Marriage is celebrated during Mass, this Ritual Mass is used, with the colour white or a festive colour.

However, on those days listed in nos. 1-4 of the Table of Liturgical Days, the Mass of the day is used, retaining the Nuptial Blessing in the Mass and, if appropriate, the proper formula for the final blessing.

If, however, during Christmas Time and Ordinary Time, the parish community participates in a Sunday Mass during which Marriage is celebrated, the Mass of the Sunday is used.

Although complete Mass formularies are given here for the sake of convenience, all texts, especially the prayers and the Nuptial Blessing, may be exchanged, if appropriate, with others.

A

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 19: 3, 5

May the Lord send you help from the holy place
and give you support from Sion.
May he grant you your hearts' desire
and fulfil every one of your designs (E.T. alleluia).

Collect

Be attentive to our prayers, O Lord,
and in your kindness uphold
what you have established for the increase of the human race,
so that the union you have created
may be kept safe by your assistance.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Or:

O God, who in creating the human race
willed that man and wife should be one,
join, we pray, in a bond of inseparable love
these your servants who are to be united in the covenant of Marriage,
so that, as you make their love fruitful,
they may become, by your grace, witnesses to charity itself.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive, we pray, O Lord,
the offering made on the occasion
of this sealing of the sacred bond of Marriage,
and, just as your goodness is its origin,
may your providence guide its course.
Through Christ our Lord.

Preface: *The dignity of the marriage covenant.*

℣. 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.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you have forged the covenant of marriage
as a sweet yoke of harmony
and an unbreakable bond of peace,
so that the chaste and fruitful love of holy Matrimony
may serve to increase the children you adopt as your own.

By your providence and grace, O Lord,
you accomplish the wonder of this twofold design:
that, while the birth of children brings beauty to the world,
their rebirth in Baptism gives increase to the Church,
through Christ our Lord.

Through him, with the Angels and all the Saints,
we sing the hymn of your praise,
as without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...

A commemoration of the husband and wife in the Eucharistic Prayers is made according to the following formulas:

a) In Eucharistic Prayer I, the proper form of the Hanc igitur (Therefore, Lord, we pray) is said. The words in parentheses may be omitted, if the occasion so suggests:

Therefore, Lord, we pray:
graciously accept this oblation of our service,
the offering of your servants **N.** and **N.**
and of your whole family,
who entreat your majesty on their behalf;
and as you have brought them to their wedding day,
so (gladden them with your gift of the children they desire and)
bring them in your kindness
to the length of days for which they hope.
(Through Christ our Lord. Amen.)

b) In Eucharistic Prayer II, after the words and all the clergy, the following is added:

Be mindful also, Lord, of N. and N.,
whom you have brought to their wedding day,
so that by your grace
they may abide in mutual love and in peace.

c) In Eucharistic Prayer III, after the words whom you have summoned before you, the following is added:

Strengthen, we pray, in the grace of Marriage N. and N.,
whom you have brought happily to their wedding day,
that under your protection
they may always be faithful in their lives
to the covenant they have sealed in your presence.
In your compassion, O merciful Father,
gather to yourself all your children
scattered throughout the world.
To our departed brothers and sisters...

Communion Antiphon Cf. Eph 5: 25, 27

Christ loved the Church and handed himself over for her,
to present her as a holy and spotless bride for himself (E.T. alleluia).

Prayer after Communion

By the power of this sacrifice, O Lord,
accompany with your loving favour
what in your providence you have instituted,
so as to make of one heart in love
those you have already joined in this holy union
(and replenished with the one Bread and the one Chalice).
Through Christ our Lord.

Solemn Blessing at the End of Mass

The Priest, with hands extended over the bride and bridegroom, says:

May God the eternal Father
keep you of one heart in love for one another,
that the peace of Christ may dwell in you
and abide always in your home.

℟. Amen.

May you be blessed in your children,
have solace in your friends
and enjoy true peace with everyone.

℟. Amen.

May you be witnesses in the world to God's charity,
so that the afflicted and needy who have known your kindness
may one day receive you thankfully
into the eternal dwelling of God.

℟. Amen.

And he blesses all the people, adding:

And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here,
the Father, ✠ and the Son, ✠ and the Holy ✠ Spirit.

℟. Amen.

B

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Ps 89: 14, 17

At dawn, O Lord, fill us with your merciful love,
and we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us
and upon the work of our hands (E.T. alleluia).

Collect

Be attentive to our prayers, O Lord,
and in your kindness
pour out your grace on these your servants (N. and N.),
that, coming together before your altar,
they may be confirmed in love for one another.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Or:

O God, who consecrated the bond of Marriage
by so great a mystery
that in the wedding covenant you foreshadow
the Sacrament of Christ and his Church,
grant, we pray, to these your servants,
that what they receive in faith
they may live out in deeds.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive in your kindness, Lord,
the offerings we bring in gladness before you,
and in your fatherly love
watch over those you have joined in a sacramental covenant.
Through Christ our Lord.

Preface: *The great Sacrament of Matrimony.*

℣. 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.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Christ our Lord.

For in him you have made a new covenant with your people,
so that, as you have redeemed man and woman
by the mystery of Christ's Death and Resurrection,
so in Christ you might make them partakers of divine nature
and joint heirs with him of heavenly glory.

In the union of husband and wife
you give a sign of Christ's loving gift of grace,
so that the Sacrament we celebrate
might draw us back more deeply
into the wondrous design of your love.

And so, with the Angels and all the Saints,
we praise you, and without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...

In the Eucharistic Prayers there are proper intercessions (cf. Set A).

Communion Antiphon

Jn 13: 34

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another
as I have loved you, says the Lord (E.T. alleluia).

Prayer after Communion

Having been made partakers at your table,
we pray, O Lord,
that those who are united by the Sacrament of Marriage
may always hold fast to you
and proclaim your name to the world.
Through Christ our Lord.

Solemn Blessing at the End of Mass

The Priest, with hands extended over the bride and bridegroom, says:

May God the all-powerful Father grant you his joy
and bless you in your children.

℟. Amen.

May the Only Begotten Son of God
stand by you with compassion in good times and in bad.

℟. Amen.

May the Holy Spirit of God
always pour forth his love into your hearts.

℟. Amen.

And he blesses all the people, adding:

And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here,
the Father, ✠ and the Son, ✠ and the Holy ✠ Spirit.

℟. Amen.

C

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 144: 2, 9

I will bless you day after day, O Lord,
and praise your name for ever and ever,
for you are kind to all
and compassionate to all your creatures (E.T. alleluia).

Collect

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that these your servants,
now to be joined by the Sacrament of Matrimony,
may grow in the faith they profess
and enrich your Church with faithful offspring.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Or:

O God, who since the beginning of the world
have blessed the increase of offspring,
show favour to our supplications
and pour forth the help of your blessing
on these your servants (N. and N.),
so that in the union of Marriage
they may be bound together
in mutual affection,
in likeness of mind,
and in shared holiness.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Prayer over the Offerings

Show favour to our supplications, O Lord,
and receive with a kindly countenance
the oblations we offer for these your servants,
joined now in a holy covenant,
that through these mysteries
they may be strengthened
in love for one another and for you.
Through Christ our Lord.

Preface: Matrimony as a sign of divine love.

℣. 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.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you willed that the human race,
created by the gift of your goodness,
should be raised to such high dignity
that in the union of husband and wife
you might bestow a true image of your love.

For those you created out of charity
you call to the law of charity without ceasing
and grant them a share in your eternal charity.

And so, the Sacrament of holy Matrimony,
as the abiding sign of your own love,
consecrates the love of man and woman,
through Christ our Lord.

Through him, with the Angels and all the Saints,
we sing the hymn of your praise,
as without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...

In the Eucharistic Prayers there are proper intercessions (cf. Set A).

Communion Antiphon

Ps 33: 2, 9

I will bless the Lord at all times,
praise of him is always in my mouth.
Taste and see that the Lord is good;
blessed the man who seeks refuge in him (E.T. alleluia).

Prayer after Communion

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that the power of the Sacrament we have received
may find growth in these your servants
and that the effects of the sacrifice we have offered
may be felt by us all.
Through Christ our Lord.

Solemn Blessing at the End of Mass

The Priest, with hands extended over the bride and bridegroom, says:

May the Lord Jesus,
who graced the marriage at Cana by his presence,
bless you and your loved ones.

℟: Amen.

May he, who loved the Church to the end,
unceasingly pour his love into your hearts.

℟: Amen.

May the Lord grant
that, bearing witness to faith in his Resurrection,
you may await with joy the blessed hope to come.

℟: Amen.

And he blesses all the people, adding:

And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here,
the Father, ✠ and the Son, ✠ and the Holy ✠ Spirit.

℟: Amen.