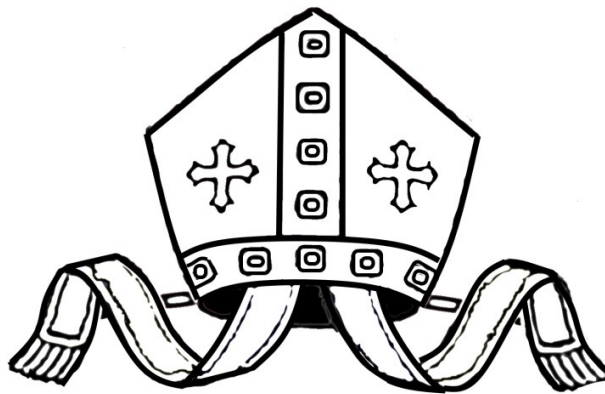
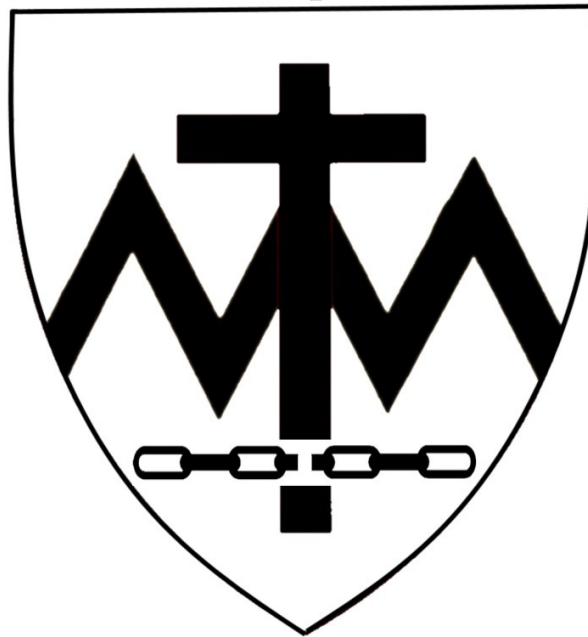


# Rite and Sacrament of Holy Matrimony



St Leonard's Chapel, Hazlewood



## The Order of St James (UK)

Approved Services: Communion, Baptism, Rite and Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.



# **The Order of St James (UK)**

## **Rite and Sacrament of Holy Matrimony**

### **Introduction**

Marriage is a journey two special people make together and it is different from all other relationships.

Today we come to celebrate the moment when two special people, (name of husband) and (name of bride), begin their journey together as husband and wife.

We will celebrate with them as they make their vows before God and before us, family and friends.

Marriage is a way of life that demands commitment, a commitment born out of real love, a love that reaches beyond the feelings and passions of the moment.

It takes in, in one breath, the past on which the relationship has been built, the present with its transient emotions, and the future which holds the hopes and expectations of a deepening love.

Marriage is a sign of unity, loyalty and trust, which all should uphold and honour.

Unity does not mean being the same. Unity is a oneness based on the freely given recognition of each person as an individual by the other, accepting the right to think and respond differently to different situations, but always protecting, strengthening and encouraging the relationship.

It is forgiving and does not hold onto hurts or build walls out of disagreements. Although it seems a natural path to take in a relationship, no one should enter into marriage lightly or selfishly.

It is not always an easy path and needs careful thought but (name of husband) and (name of bride)'s commitment to and love of each other has been tested by both time and circumstances, and they now stand before God, family and friends, ready to make their promises to each other and ask for God's blessing and guidance.

### **The Declarations**

The declarations that follow form the basis on which both (name of husband) and (name of bride) have established their love for each other.

I am required to ask them both in turn whether they will continue to respect, honour, love and protect each other before they make their binding marriage vows.

(Name of husband), will you take (name of bride) to be your wife? Will you love her, be her strength and consolation, honour, protect and be always faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

*(name of husband): I will*

(Name of bride), will you take (name of husband) to be your husband? Will you love him, be his strength and consolation, honour, protect and be always faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

*(name of wife): I will*

### **Family blessing**

*(The celebrant will now ask the father/mother/family or other chosen representatives the following which replaces the traditional form of the 'giving away' of the bride: amend text as required.)*

(Name of wife) and (name of husband) have declared their love of and intentions towards each other.

Do you (each) give your blessing and support to this union between (name of husband) and (name of wife) as they come to be married?

*Parents or other nominated person(s): I/We do*

### **Commitment by family and friends**

This is now something for all of you and the correct response is 'We will.'  
Will you, the families and friends of (name of husband) and (name of wife),  
support and uphold them in their marriage now and in the years to come?

*All:* **We will.**

### **The Lighting of individual candles by the bride and groom**

We now come to a part of the service involving the lighting of individual candles  
by the bride and groom in preparation for the lighting what is called the Unity  
Candle.

Each lighted candles symbolises the light that (name of wife) and (name of  
husband) bring to the marriage as individuals.

Later in the service, after the proclamation has been made, the Unity candle itself  
will be lit from these two individual flames which will be joined them together as  
one.

### **The Collect**

God our loving Father, from the moment of creation you have blessed us all  
with abundant life and your great love for us.

We invite you now to be present at this celebration of the love of two special people and ask that you stand with them as they make their promises of marriage to each other.

Father, may you open their minds to the great possibilities that this lays before them and guide them wisely and gently in the journey they will take together.  
Amen

*(A hymn may be sung at this point.)*

### **The Word**

*1 Corinthians 13, v 4-8*

4Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

5It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

8Love never fails.

*(A homily may be given at this point.)*

### **The Marriage Vows**

(Name of husband) and (name of wife), I now invite you to face one another, to join hands and make your vows in the presence of God and his people your family and friends.

## **Vows**

Husband:

I, (name of husband), take you, (name of wife),  
to be my 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 us do part;  
according to God's holy law.  
In the presence of God I make this vow.

Wife:

I, (name of wife), take you, (name of husband),  
to be my 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 us do part;  
according to God's holy law.  
In the presence of God I make this vow.



## **The Blessing and Exchange of Rings**

Rings have long been a symbol of the unbroken circle of faithfulness and love. As ring promises are made, (name of husband) and (name of bride) have asked that the rings they offer/have received from each other are given God's blessing.

May I have the rings please.

Heavenly father by your blessing let these rings be to (name of husband) and (name of bride) symbols of both your and their unending love and faithfulness.

May they be a reminder of the marriage vows they have made today.

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

*(The rings are then accepted and given.)*

(Name of bride), I give you this ring  
as a sign of our marriage, all that we are, all that we share, all we shall become.  
in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

(Name of husband), I give you this ring  
as a sign of our marriage, all that we are, all that we share, all we shall become.  
in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

### **The Proclamation**

(Name of husband) and (name of bride), now you have made these promises before God and your family and friends, it is my great pleasure as priest to declare that before God, family and friends, you are now joined in marriage as husband and wife. May God's peace be with you always.

### **The Traditional Kiss between husband and wife**

### **The Lighting of the Unity Candle**

As a declaration of their love and as a symbol of their unity, (name of husband) and (name of wife) will now jointly light the Unity Candle as a symbol that they are now one, being united in their love for one another.

Their individual candles will remain alight as a symbol that they yet retain, treasure and protect their own and their partner's individuality within their new relationship as a married couple.

### **The Blessing and Prayers**

(name of husband) and (name of wife), may God the Holy Trinity bless, preserve and keep you; the Lord mercifully grant you the riches of his grace, that you may please him in body and soul,  
live faithfully together in love, and receive the blessings of eternal life. **Amen.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,**

*(Other prayers may be added as appropriated.)*

*(Closing this section of prayers for the bride and groom the reader/celebrant says:*

*Dear Father and creator of all that is good, just and holy, hear our prayer. Amen)*

### **Prayers for family and friends**

We remember absent family and friends, those who were not able to be present today. May the love of God our Father rest upon them.

With gratitude and true affection we offer to you the memories we hold of those whose lives have touched ours and we give you thanks. **Amen.**

### **Closing blessings**

God bless the marriage of (name of husband) and (name of bride).

Together may they build a life where they know each other's strengths, nurture each other's talents, and support each other's needs.

May they work together, laugh together, play together and dream together.  
May they show others that, with love, life has hope,  
life has meaning, and life is great and wonderful gift of God.  
May you witness their love O Lord, make it deeper and stronger with time,  
for we are born to love and be loved

**Amen**

### **Closing Blessing**

The love, peace and strength of God be with you wherever you are and may you  
continue to be blessed in your own journeys through life.

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

*The bride and groom may now leave followed by family and friends.*

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