

## CHAPTER III

### The Rite of Marriage with a Person not Baptised

#### STRUCTURE OF THIS RITE

##### INTRODUCTORY RITES

Welcome and Entry Procession or Entry and Welcome  
Greeting  
Exhortation or Prayer

##### LITURGY OF THE WORD

One, two or three Readings, with or without Psalm  
Homily

##### LITURGY OF MARRIAGE

Address  
Examination  
The Consent  
Exchange of Ring or Rings  
Intercessions and Nuptial Blessing or prayer  
Lord's Prayer<sup>1</sup>  
(Sign of Peace)  
Documents

##### CONCLUDING RITE

Blessing and Dismissal

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<sup>1</sup> Holy Communion, see Appendix C

## Marriage with a Person not Baptised

This rite must be used when either the bride or the bridegroom is not baptised.

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### INTRODUCTORY RITES

At the appointed time the priest, wearing alb or surplice, white stole and, if desired, white cope, proceeds with the ministers to the sanctuary of the church or the door of the church and greets the bride and bridegroom. Where it is desirable that the rite of welcome be omitted, the celebration begins at once with the greeting, the exhortation or prayer, and the liturgy of the word.

### 61 ENTRY PROCESSION

The ministers go before the priest and the bride and bridegroom, who may be escorted by at least their parents and the two witnesses. Meanwhile, the **entrance song** may be sung (see Appendix A).

The bride and groom may be placed at the front, or on either side with their families. The priest goes to his seat, or stands in the centre, and makes the sign of the cross; then he greets the people.

The grace and peace of God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

or The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

or The Lord be with you.

or a similar biblical greeting.

R. And also with you.

### 62 EXHORTATION OR PRAYER

Unless a brief pastoral exhortation seems more desirable, he may now offer a prayer.

Let us pray (for God's blessing on this day).

(a) Father, you have made the bond of marriage holy.

Hear our prayer for **N** and **N**:  
with faith in you and in each other,  
they pledge their love today.

May they always bear witness  
to the reality of that love.

(We ask this) through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen

or

(b) Father, hear our prayers for **N** and **N**  
as they enter into the covenant of marriage.  
Give them your blessing  
and strengthen their love for each other.  
(We ask this) through Christ our Lord. R. Amen

or

(c) Father, when you created mankind  
you willed that man and wife should be one.  
Bind **N** and **N**  
In the loving union of marriage  
And make their love fruitful,  
so that they may be living witnesses  
to your divine love in the world.  
(We ask this) through Christ our Lord. R. Amen

or another similar prayer.

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#### LITURGY OF THE WORD

There may be one, two or three readings from the Lectionary (Chapman edition, page 910 fol). the first being from the Old Testament: in Paschaltide, the first should preferably be from Acts, the second from the Apocalypse and the gospel from St. John.

64 HOMILY

A homily is given, drawn from the sacred text. It should speak of the obligations of marriage and other appropriate points. After the homily, the priest may invite the couple and the chief witnesses to come forward to the entrance of the sanctuary, if they are not already there.

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65 If two or more marriages are celebrated at the same time, the questioning before consent, the consent itself and the acceptance of consent shall be done individually for each couple; the rest, including the nuptial blessing, is said once for all, using the plural format.

All stand, including the bride and bridegroom, and the priest addresses them in these or similar words

N and N (Christian or first names),  
 you have come together in this church  
 so that the Lord may seal and strengthen your love.  
 In this way  
 you will be strengthened  
 to keep mutual and lasting faith with each other  
 and to carry out the duties of marriage.

And so, in the presence of the Church—  
 before me, its minister,  
 with these your friends as witnesses—  
 I ask you to state your intentions  
 to live in lifelong fidelity to each other  
 and to God whose image you bear.

67 The priest then questions them about their freedom of choice, faithfulness to each other and the acceptance and upbringing of children:

I now ask you if you undertake  
 the obligations of marriage  
 freely and deliberately.

N and N, are you ready,  
 freely and without reservation,  
 to give yourselves to each other in marriage?

Each answers separately, first the bridegroom, then the bride:

**I am.**

Will you love and honour each other  
 as man and wife, for the rest of your lives?

Each answers:

**I will.**

The following question may be omitted if, for example, the couple is advanced in years:

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

Each answers:

**I will.**

68 THE CONSENT

(At an appropriate part of the ceremony, according to local custom, the bride may be "given away" by a relative or close friend).

The priest invites the bride and bridegroom to declare their consent:

Since it is your intention to enter into marriage,  
declare your consent before God and his Church.

First he asks the bridegroom, inserting the full names:

N N, do you  
freely and willingly  
take N N, here present,  
for your lawful wife  
according to the laws of God  
and of holy mother Church?

The groom answers:

**I do.**

Then he asks the bride, inserting the full names:

N N, do you  
freely and willingly  
take N N, here present,  
for your lawful husband  
according to the laws of God  
and of holy mother Church?

The bride answers:

**I do.**

- 69 The priest then says to the bridegroom and bride:  
N and N, join your right hands.

The bridegroom takes the bride's right hand in his and says (or repeats after the priest):

Groom: I, N N,  
take you, N N,  
for my lawful wife,  
to have and to hold  
from this day forward:  
for better, for worse;  
for richer, for poorer;  
in sickness and in health  
till death do us part.

The bride says (or repeats after the priest):

Bride: I, N N,  
take you, N N,  
for my lawful husband,  
to have and to hold  
from this day forward:  
for better, for worse;  
for richer, for poorer;  
in sickness and in health  
till death do us part.

- 70 Having received their consent the priest says:

You have declared your consent before the church.  
May the Lord in his goodness  
Strengthen your married love.

Then the priest declares to all present:

“What God has joined together,  
Let no man put asunder.” (Matthew 19, 6)

All present reply: Amen

And the couple release their hands

71 BLESSING AND EXCHANGE OF THE RING OR RING  
(If circumstances warrant, this rite may be omitted).

The priest blesses the ring or rings, handed to him by the best man or a server:

- (a) May the Lord bless + this ring (these rings),  
which you give (to each other)  
as the sign of your love and fidelity.

R. Amen.

or

- (b) Lord, bless + and consecrate N and N  
in their love for each other.  
May this ring (these rings)  
be a symbol of true faith in each other  
and always remind them of their love.  
(Grant this) through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen

or (only when two rings are to be blessed);

- (c) Lord, bless these rings  
which we bless + in your name.  
Grant that those who wear them  
may always have a deep faith in each other.  
May they do your will  
and always live together  
in peace, good will and love.  
(We ask this) through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen

He may sprinkle the rings with holy water.

The groom gives the ring to his wife, putting it on the fourth finger of her left hand,  
saying:

**Groom: With this ring I wed you,  
in the name of the Father  
and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

The husband may also hand (gold and) silver to his wife, saying:

**Groom: This gold and silver I give you,  
tokens of all my worldly goods.**

If the bride gives a ring to her husband, she does so in the same manner, saying:

**Bride: With this ring I wed you,  
in the name of the Father  
and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

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A person who does not share our belief in the Trinity should be asked to give the ring while saying simply:

**With this ring I wed you.**

The prayer of the Faithful is replaced by the following

## 72 THE INTERCESSIONS AND NUPTIAL BLESSING

If circumstances so require, this blessing can be omitted: the priest may say another prayer instead, then continue at paragraph 75.

If given, it is combined with the general intercessions in this way:-

First, the priest says one of these invitations:

(i) My dear friends, let us turn to the Lord  
and pray that he will bless with his grace  
this woman (or N), now married in Christ to this man (or N);  
and that he will unite in love the couple he has joined in his holy bond.

or

(ii) Let us pray to the Lord for N and N,  
who come to God at the beginning of their married life,  
so that they may always be united in love for each other

or

(iii) My dear friends, let us ask God  
for his continued blessings  
upon this bridegroom (N) and his bride (N).

or other suitable invitation to prayer.

Immediately after the invitation, there can be *either* a brief period of silence for prayer, *or* a series of intentions as in the Prayer of the Faithful with responses by the people. The following example of intentions may be used; or others, previously composed; provided they are in harmony with the blessing that follows and do not duplicate it.

**Example****Reader**

1. For God's blessing on **N** and **N**, that their marriage be inspired and sustained by his love-  
Pray to the Lord.

**All respond:** Lord hear our prayer.

**(Other response may be sung or said instead).**

2. For all married people, that they will find renewed strength from our joyful celebration today-
3. That men and women everywhere will live in harmony and peace-
4. For the renewal in all people of a sense of vocation, whatever their walk in life, that they may be faithful to their chosen walk in life-
5. That all who have died (**..N..**) will be reunited with their loved ones in life eternal-
6. And we offer our personal prayers in silence.

- 74 **After a silent pause, the priest extends his hands and blesses the couple with the following.**

NUPTIAL BLESSING

**Holy Father, creator of the universe  
maker of man and woman in your own likeness.  
source of blessing for the married life:  
we humbly pray to you for this bride (N)  
who today is united with her husband (N) in the bond of marriage.**

**May your fullest blessing comer upon her and her husband  
so that they may together rejoice in your gift of married love.  
May they be noted for their good lives (and be parents filled with virtue).**

**Lord, may they both praise you when they are happy  
and turn to you in their sorrows.  
May they be glad that you help them in their work  
and know that you are with them in their need.**

**May they reach old age in the company of their friends  
and come at last to the kingdom of heaven.**

**(We ask this) through Christ our Lord.      R. Amen.**

75 If present, the minister of the party who is not a Catholic may here be invited to address the couple and pray for them.

76 **HOLY COMMUNION**

If Holy Communion is to be distributed, according to law, turn to Appendix C for the Rite of Holy Communion apart from Mass.

If Holy Communion is not to be given, all may now say together the **Lord's Prayer**, introduced as usual, and may exchange the **Sign of Peace**.

77 **DOCUMENTS**

The wedding group now retire to the sacristy or other place, or to a table in the church, to complete the documents. Meanwhile, the people may sing suitable hymns (see Appendix A) or listen to appropriate music in a prayerful spirit. Then the wedding group return to their places for the blessing.

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## Concluding Rite

88 After each rite of marriage, all kneel in their places. The priest, standing at his seat or in the centre, gives the blessing in the simple form or, if desired, in a solemn form. Then he gives the dismissal.

89 **SOLEMN BLESSING**

**Priest:** The Lord be with you. **R.** And also with you.

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing  
(or similar invitation)

He extends both hands over the couple and the people:

1 –God, the eternal Father,  
keep you in love for each other,  
so that the peace of Christ may stay with you  
and be always in your home. **R.** Amen

–May (your children bless you)  
your friends console you  
and all men live in peace with you. **R.** Amen

–May you always bear witness to the love of God in this world;  
so that the afflicted and the needy  
will find in you generous friends  
and welcome you into the joys of heaven. **R.** Amen

–And may almighty God bless you all:  
+ the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **R.** Amen

- 2 –May God, the almighty Father,  
Give you his joy  
and bless you (in your children). R. Amen
- May the only Son of God have mercy on you  
and help you in good times and in bad. R. Amen
- May the Holy Spirit of God  
always fill your hearts with his love. R. Amen
- And may almighty God bless you all:  
+ the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. R. Amen
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- 3 –May the Lord Jesus Christ,  
who was a guest at the wedding in Cana,  
bless you and your families and friends. R. Amen
- May Jesus, who loved his Church to the end,  
Always fill your hearts with his love. R. Amen
- May he grant that,  
as you believe in his resurrection,  
So you may wait for him in joy and hope. R. Amen
- And may almighty God bless you all:  
+ the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. R. Amen
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The priest dismisses the people in these or similar words:

- Go in the peace of Christ
- or Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.
- or Go out in the joy of Christ's Love.
- or Go in gladness, live your lives in God's joy.

All reply: Thanks be to God.

And all depart, to the accompaniment, if desired, of a hymn or suitable joyful music.