

EAST REDLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

An image of the couple, church symbol or some other significant image may be placed here if desired

THE MARRIAGE OF

.....

AND

.....

Saturday

at **pm**

ATTENDANTS

.....

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.....

.....

CELEBRANT

.....

A SERVICE FOR MARRIAGE

This draft order of service is not intended to be printed for congregational use on the day of the wedding but to you understanding the shape and progression of the service and the words used. The explanations and options are to help in planning.

All stand when the Bridal Procession enters the church.

Option 1: Traditional entry- Bride with Father & Bridesmaids

Option 2: Bride & Bridegroom enter together, followed by attendants, (followed by parents).

THE BRIDAL ENTRY – Please choose music to go here

The celebrant welcomes those gathered, and then says:

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

All And also with you

A Hymn may be sung at this point . (Hymns are an option throughout; only have them if you believe your guests sing them. You could employ a soloist who could add depth to any singing)

The people sit. The celebrant says

We have come together in the presence of God
to witness the marriage of **N and NN**,
and to ask God's blessing on them as we share in their joy.
Marriage is the gift of God our creator.
It is a symbol of God's unending love for his people,
and of the union between Christ and his Church.
Christ loved his bride, the Church, and gave himself for her.
As he has called **N and NN** to marriage,
so he draws their differing gifts and hopes
into a unity of love and service.

Scripture teaches that marriage is a lifelong partnership
uniting a man and a woman in heart, mind and body.
In the joy of their union, husband and wife enrich and respond
to each other, growing in tenderness and understanding.

Through marriage a new family is formed,
where children may be born and nurtured in secure and loving care.
Marriage is therefore to be honoured by all.
No one should enter it lightly or selfishly,
but responsibly and joyfully,
with mutual respect and the promise to be faithful.

N and NN are now to enter this way of life.

They will each give their consent to the other and make solemn vows,
and in token of this they will each give and receive a ring.

So let us now pray with **N and NN** as they prepare to exchange their solemn vows:

Blessed are you, loving God, your Spirit binds us together.

**All Crown our lives with your goodness;
sustain us all our days with your love.**

Bless **N and NN** with wisdom and pleasure.

Be their friend and companion in joy,
their comfort in need and in sorrow.

And when this life is ended
welcome them into your presence,
there with all your people
to praise your holy Name:

**All: Blessed be God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
as in the beginning, so now and for ever. Amen.**

Scripture Readings

One or two readings from the Bible may be selected. (Poetry or literature is read later in the service after the actual marriage). Please select readings from the Readings and Prayers Booklet. After the reading from Scripture the priest may give an address. A hymn may be sung after the readings.

Reading 1

Read by:

Hear the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Reading 2

Read by:

Hear the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE CONSENT

The wording of the Consent and the Vows is a fixed form.

The asking for objections to the wedding or calling for any known reason why the marriage cannot proceed is no longer a part of the service. The introduction to the statements of consent on the following page may be omitted if desired and may the Consent may start from "To the Bridegroom".

N and NN,

you have come together in this church
so that the Lord may seal and strengthen your love,
in the presence of a priest of the Church
and this community of family and friends.
Christ abundantly blesses this commitment of love.
He has already consecrated you in baptism
and now he enriches and strengthens you by this special sacrament,
so that you may assume the duties of marriage
in mutual and lasting fidelity.
And so, in the presence of the church,
I ask you now to declare your intention to marry.

To the Bridegroom

N, will you give yourself to **NN**
to be her husband?
Will you love her, comfort her,
honour and protect her
and, forsaking all others,
be faithful to her so long as you shall live?

I will.

To the Bride

NN, will you give yourself to **N**
to be his wife?
Will you love him, comfort him,
honour and protect him
and, forsaking all others,
be faithful to him so long as you shall live?

I will.

Family blessing and/or Friends giving support. The Medieval tradition of the Father “giving” the bride away is no longer a part of the service. It is replaced by this optional section, which includes both families. It is important not to overlay this part of the service with additional ceremonies. The focus is on the simplicity of your vows – this is the highlight of the sacrament. During this part of the service the congregation is invited to stand

Families and friends
you are witnesses to these vows.
Will you do everything in your power
to uphold **N and NN** in their marriage.

All We will.

THE WEDDING

Since it is your intention to enter into marriage,
turn to face each other and, holding hands,
declare your vows before God and his Church.

To the Bridegroom

I, **N** in the presence of God
take you, **NN** 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,
so long as we both shall live.
All this I vow and promise.

To the Bride

I, **NN** in the presence of God
take you, **N** 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,
so long as we both shall live.
All this I vow and promise.

THE BLESSING & GIVING OF THE RINGS

The Priest receives the rings from the Best Man

Heavenly Father,
bless these rings which we bless in your name.
Grant that **N and NN**
who shall wear them always have a deep faith in each other.
May they always do your will
and always live together
in peace, good will, and love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Giver of the ring

N/NN, I give you this ring
as a symbol of our marriage.

With all that I am
and all that I have
I honour you.

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

Receiver of the ring

N/NN, I receive this ring
as a symbol of your love and faithfulness to the end of our days.
May God enable us to grow in love together.

THE DECLARATION OF THE MARRIAGE

The Priest joins their hands, binding them with the ends of the stole and then pronounces the declaration. This is the moment which has given rise to the colloquial saying "Tying the Knot".

Before God and in the presence of us all,
N & NN have joined hands,
made their solemn vows,
promising life-long faithfulness to each other,
and by the giving and receiving of rings,
they have accepted each other in marriage.
In the name of God
I declare them to be husband and wife.
What God has joined together,
Let no one separate.

NUPTIAL BLESSING

✠God the Father enrich you with his grace
✠God the Son make you holy in his love
✠God the Holy Spirit strengthen you with his joy and peace.
The Lord bless you and keep you in eternal life.

All Amen.

NUPTIAL KISS

Please select one of the following options

Option 1: You may now kiss each other as husband and wife

Option 2: **N**, you may kiss the Bride

The congregation now applaud and then sit while the marriage documents are signed.

Please select music to be played during the signing of the marriage documents. If desired A soloist may sing during the signing of the register but this will need to be arranged by the couple and the details of the soloist forwarded to the Priest.

Photographers are given a bit of license here to take appropriate photographs. Otherwise they are not free just to roam about and cause distractions. The congregation can get more interested in the antics of the photographer and be distracted from the real event and priority of the couple. The same applies to videographers.

When the registration is completed the service continues.

THE PRAYERS

These or another combination of the prayers from the Readings and Prayers Booklet may be used here.

For Faithfulness

Heavenly Father, giver of life and love, God of all grace, friend and companion, look in favour on N and NN, and all who are made one in marriage. In your love deepen their love, strengthen their wills to keep the promises they have made, that they may continue in life-long faithfulness to each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord

All Amen.

For the Gift of Children

(This prayer is omitted if medical circumstances or age make this unlikely)

Lord of life, Lord of life, you create us in your image and likeness and by your gracious gift the human family is increased. To **N and NN** grant the blessing of children. Fill them with wisdom and love as they care for their family, so that they and their children may know and love you, through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

When the ceremony involves a pre-existing family there is a provision for a prayer for those children entering into this new family.

For the grace to live well

Faithful God, giver of all good things, give **N and NN** wisdom and devotion in ordering their life together. May they dwell together in love and peace all the days of their life, seeking one another's welfare, bearing one another's burdens, and sharing one another's joys; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, now and forever,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Accept our prayers, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray:

**All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL

This blessing is pronounced over the entire congregation.

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in such harmony with one another,
in accord with Christ Jesus,
that together you may with one voice
glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always,

All Amen.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you **Mr & Mrs N and NN.**

The congregation now applaud

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

THE WEDDING PROCESSION- [Please select music to go here](#)