

## **.PART FOUR THE WEDDING CEREMONY**

When couples marry at the Cathedral they are given two books. The volume one publication gives considerable detail about getting married including registering the marriage. Within that book the couple are given a wide choice of words with the assistance of the minister conducting the marriage ceremony. This is in Part 4 of the book and is reproduced here.

### **1. Entry of the Bridal Party (Processional)**

#### **Summary**

#### **Selection of Choices**

*Throughout this section Choices will be offered to you. As an aid a box is shown on the right hand side. Mark the appropriate section and when you have completed your choices transfer your decisions into the checklist found at the back of the book. Where the choices are many we ask you to place the number of your choice after that section.*

#### **Bridal Party Entry into the Church (Processional).**

There are several ways of bringing the Bridal Party into the Church. The most common one has been for the Bride to be accompanied by her escort with Bridesmaids coming behind. There are however, other choices and these are some of them.

Because the aisle of the Church is short and therefore we conduct the marriage ceremony under the arch of the screen so we do recommend that the Bridesmaids process first and join the Groom and the best man at the front of the Church. The Bride and her escort then processes into the church. The senior Bridesmaid attends the Bride then all become seated apart from the Bride and groom. Finally, both mothers can be processed first having a son or usher accompanying them. See the choices available for you and note appropriately your choices.

### **1. Entrance of the Bridal Party**

#### **Choice 1.1**

Mothers to be processed first

#### **Choice 1.2.**

Bride processes in front of the bridesmaids

#### **Choice 1.3**

Bride processes behind the Bridesmaids

### **2. Welcome**

#### **Summary**

*The Minister seats the congregation and welcomes them to your important day. If you wish you can turn and face the congregation and add your welcome and thanks,*

#### **Choice 2.**

We wish to add our welcome to the Minister's welcome

### **3. Marriage Candle Ceremony**

#### **Summary**

*Churches throughout the world offer a marriage candle ceremony as part of the wedding service. If you incorporate this into your service it is performed at the altar immediately after the welcome.*

*We use three candles. Two lower ones indicate your two separate lives before marriage and are lit normally by the mothers of the Bride and Groom. The Central higher one is lit by you both later in the service after the marriage blessing has been pronounced. The single candle represents two lives becoming one in marriage as the Bible states that the two become one flesh (Genesis 2:24)*

*The Minister explains that it is the mother who has given birth and taken a major share in bringing up her child. The Minister then accompanies the mothers to the altar. It is possible to use other members of the family if circumstances require it.*

#### **Choice 3**

Please indicate if the Candle Ceremony is your wish.

### **4. Introduction to Christian Marriage.**

#### **Summary**

*The Introduction to Christian Marriage is an important part of the ceremony. We therefore offer several choices and you are free to match the words to your experience of life and hopes for the future.*

**Unlike the other choices where a tick is shown after each paragraph, when your choice in this section is made place it immediately after Choice 4:12 on page 16**

It is shown like this

**Our selection under this section 4 is**

**Choice 4: \_\_\_\_\_**

The Minister will read out your choice you have made.

#### **Choice 4.1**

“We are gathered here in the presence of God to celebrate the wedding of A and C<sup>1</sup> to rejoice with them, and to support them with our prayers.”

“Marriage is a gift and calling of God, and is not to be entered upon lightly or thoughtlessly, but reverently and responsibly, in obedience to the gospel of Christ.”

“God has given us marriage so that husband and wife may find comfort and companionship in each other, and live faithfully together for the whole of their lives.”

“God has given us marriage so that husband and wife may love and honour each other, enrich and encourage each other, and know each other with tenderness and joy.”

“God has given us marriage for the birth and nurture of children, so that they may grow up in the security of love, and come to experience the freedom of faith that there is in Christ.”

“God has given us marriage so that husband and wife, being joined together as Christ with his Church, may be a sign of unity and mutual commitment, for the enrichment of society and the strengthening of community.”

This is the way of life that A. and C. are now to begin. They come to give themselves freely to each other, to exchange solemn promises, and to ask God's blessing on their new life together.

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<sup>1</sup> Where A and C are shown it means that A= the first name of the Bridegroom and C= the first name of the Bride.

#### **Choice 4.2**

In the presence of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we have come together to witness the marriage of *A and C*, to pray for God's blessing on them, to share their joy and to celebrate their love.

Marriage is a gift of God in creation through which husband and wife may know the grace of God. It is given that as man and woman grow together in love and trust, they shall be united with one another in heart, body and mind, as Christ is united with his Bride, the Church.

The gift of marriage brings husband and wife together in the delight and tenderness of sexual union and joyful commitment to the end of their lives. It is given as the foundation of family life in which children are [born and] nurtured and in which each member of the family, in good times and in bad, may find strength, companionship and comfort, and grow to maturity in love.

Marriage is a way of life made holy by God, and blessed by the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ with those celebrating a wedding at Cana in Galilee.

Marriage is a sign of unity and loyalty which all should uphold and honour. It enriches society and strengthens community. No one should enter into it lightly or selfishly but reverently and responsibly in the sight of almighty God.

*A and C* 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. We pray with them that the Holy Spirit will guide and strengthen them, that they may fulfil God's purposes for the whole of their earthly life together

#### **Choice 4.3**

We have come together in the presence of God, to witness the marriage of *A and C*, to ask his blessing on them, and to share in their joy. Our Lord Jesus Christ was himself a guest at a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and through his Spirit he is with us now.

The Bible teaches us that marriage is a gift of God in creation and a means of his grace, a holy mystery in which man and woman become one flesh. It is God's purpose that, as husband and wife give themselves to each other in love throughout their lives, they shall be united in that love as Christ is united with his Church.

Marriage is given, that husband and wife may comfort and help each other, living faithfully together in need and in plenty, in sorrow and in joy. It is given, that with delight and tenderness they may know each other in love, and, through the joy of their bodily union, may strengthen the union of their hearts and lives. It is given as the foundation of family life in which children may be born and nurtured in accordance with God's will, to his praise and glory.

In marriage husband and wife belong to one another, and they begin a new life together in the community. It is a way of life that all should honour; and it must not be undertaken carelessly, lightly, or selfishly, but reverently, responsibly, and after serious thought.

This is the way of life created and hallowed by God that *A and C* are now to begin. They will each give their consent to the other; they will join hands and exchange solemn vows, and in token of this they will [each] give and receive a ring.

Therefore, on this their wedding day we pray with them, that, strengthened and guided by God, they may fulfil his purpose for the whole of their earthly life together

#### **Choice 4.4**

"We have come together in the presence of God to witness and celebrate the marriage of *A & C*, and to pray God's blessing upon them now and in the years ahead.

Marriage is a gift of God our Creator, whose intention is that husband and wife should be united in heart, body and mind. In their union they fulfil their love for each other.

Marriage is given to provide the stability necessary for family life, so that children may be cared for lovingly and grow to full maturity.

Marriage is a way of life to be upheld and honoured. No one should enter into it lightly. It involves a serious and life-long commitment to each other's good in a union of strength, sympathy and delight."

#### **Choice 4.5**

"We have gathered to celebrate the marriage of A & C. Marriage is the promise of hope between a man and a woman who love each other, who trust that love, and who wish to share the future together.

It enables two separate people to share their desires, longings, dreams and memories, and to help each other through their uncertainties. It provides the encouragement to risk more and thus gain more. In marriage, husband and wife belong together, providing mutual support and a stability in which their children may grow.

Here in the presence of God we recognise and affirm their relationship as they begin their married life in the community."

#### **Choice 4.6**

"We have come together to witness the promises of A & C in marriage; to share with them in their happiness and in their hopes for the future.

Marriage involves caring and giving. It involves learning to share one's life with another person, forgiving as Christ forgives; enjoying the love and meaning which can be found together. It involves facing together whatever adversity may arise. Here before God, A & C wish to pledge their desire to spend their lives together."

#### **Choice 4.7**

"A & C are very happy to be able to share with you the celebration of their marriage. Their own love for each other has grown out of the love which they have found, first in their homes, and then among the community of friends and associates they have lived and worked with. Since their marriage is but an extension of those deep friendships, they are delighted that you are here today to witness and bless their union.

They also hope that this shared experience will deepen their own awareness as well as yours of the need for their love to be set within the broader contexts of the community's needs and hopes.

They have come to this place today, because they want their love to grow, not in isolation, but in looking outward together in the same direction to that which best serves the peace and sustains the hope of the community to which they belong. A & C would like to share within the joy of their relationship a deeper understanding of love and what it means."

#### **Choice 4:8**

"We have gathered in this place to celebrate the marriage of A & C. We come with expectancy and joy of what their relationship will mean and how it will grow as a result of the commitment they are about to make today. We come with hope and enthusiasm, encouraging them and supporting them as they enter this new phase of their lives.

Someone has written of weddings:

*"Talking seems inappropriate at times such as this, occasions of singing and dancing, of silence and feeling of celebrating and embracing, of crying and laughing."*

A & C we are happy to be here to celebrate with you what already exists – the living love of two who have found joy and meaning together. In a mysterious yet very happy way you bring together two pasts different in memories, traditions and hopes, and also in love. That will not change but will colour the future, so that as you become one you will also remain two, and that is good. Marriage is not intended to be a melting pot where differences cease to exist, but rather the place where you can be fully and honestly yourself, sharing in the deepest level of life all that you have and all that you are.

A & C we join with you, to give thanks for the past, to celebrate the present, and look forward with hope to the future that lies ahead of you."

**Choice 4:9**

“We have come together as a congregation in the presence of God and as God’s congregation so that A & C may be joined in Christian marriage.

Marriage, like our creation as male and female, owes its existence to God, who intends that husband and wife should love each other, and be faithful to each other throughout their lives. In marriage husband and wife are to help each other, to share their joys and their sorrows, and to grow together in a closer and richer bond of love.

Marriage was intended for their enjoyment. It was designed so that children should be properly cared for surrounded by love, and given the instruction and guidance that belong to a Christian upbringing. It is intended to provide a firm basis for society.

Such marriage is a solemn act, which should not be entered into thoughtlessly or lightly. To the contrary, it requires a serious purpose on the part of two people, and that they should respect one another. It requires that they should reverence, and always try to obey God, for then we and they can be assured that God will guide us and give us joy and peace.”

**Choice 4:10**

“Friends and relatives of A & C, we are gathered together to witness the promises of these two people in the bond of marriage, and to share with them their happiness and hopes for the future.

A & C believe that marriage provides the stability in which their love and concern for each other may continue to grow, both physically and spiritually. Marriage is about caring and giving. It is learning to share one’s life with another person. It is being prepared to face together whatever adversity may arise from day to day living and it is enjoying all the good times that will be spent together. It is not the submersion of one in the other but exists for the benefit of both. It enables two individuals to share their desires, longings, dreams and memories, and to help each other through out their uncertainties. Such a relationship demands patience, tolerance, a sense of humour, and above all, continual recommitment to each other.

Here amidst their friends and relatives A & C wish to pledge their love for each other and their desire to spend their lives together.”

**Choice 4:11**

“We gather in the presence of God to celebrate the marriage of A & C, and to pray God’s blessing upon them now and in the years ahead. God created us male and female, and gave us marriage for life-long companionship and mutual support, So that husband and wife may live faithfully together.

God gave us marriage for the full expression of love between a man and a woman so that they may freely give themselves to each other, with affection and delight.

God gave us marriage for the well-being of society, for the ordering of family life, (and for the birth and nurture of children). In marriage, husband and wife are called to a new way of life created, ordered, and blessed by God. This way of life must not be entered into carelessly, or from selfish motives, but responsibly and prayerfully.

We rejoice that marriage is given by God, blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ, and sustained by the Holy Spirit. Let marriage be held in honour by all.”

**Choice 4:12**

“Marriage is as old as the human family. It is of the very nature of men and women. It is part of the providence of God for our good, which from the beginning made man and woman for each other.

Marriage is a contract honoured and supported by the law. It strengthens the fabric of society through the security it gives to a husband and wife.

Marriage is more than this – it is the coming together of two people who love one another, who trust their partner’s love and want to share the future together.

Marriage is the relationship of caring and sharing, of giving and forgiving, of passion and compassion, of walking hand in hand and of talking heart to heart.

Marriage is an act of love, body, mind and spirit, which reflects the larger love of God shown to us in Jesus Christ.

Marriage is also the bringing together of two families with their traditions and treasures and of two sets of friends, to be a source of support and encouragement to the couple.

Marriage is the making of a home for children where they can grow secure in the love and knowledge of God and of human goodness. Marriage is a serious step to be celebrated with great happiness and festivity in the name of God, Creator, Saviour, Spirit. It is in this understanding of life and love that you A and you C wish to be married. So let us now fulfil your wish.”

**Our selection under this section (4) is**

**Choice 4:** \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Legal Declarations called Declaratory Words

### Summary

*The Law requires that each person being married declares publically and in legally binding words that they are free lawfully to marry.*

### Choice 5.1

**Minister says:** “If any know of any reason why [full name of the Groom] and [full name of the Bride] may not lawfully be married to each other, let them now declare it.”

**Groom says,** “I do solemnly declare that I know not of any lawful impediment why I, [full name of the Groom], may not be joined in matrimony to [full name of Bride].”

**The Bride says,** “I do solemnly declare that I know not of any lawful impediment why I, [full name of the Bride], may not be joined in matrimony to [full name of Groom].”

### Choice 5.2

**Minister:** “Due notice of their intention has been given, and no objection has been made.” I now ask you both to say that you know of no reason why you may not lawfully be married.

**Minister says to the Groom,** “Are you, [Full name of the Groom], free lawfully to marry [full name of the Bride]” The Groom replies “I am”.

**Minister says to the Bride,** “Are you, [full name of the Bride], free lawfully to marry [full name of the Groom]?” The Bride replies, “I am”.

### Choice 5.3

**Minister:** “Due notice of their intention has been given, and no objection has been made.” I now ask you both to say that you know of no reason why you may not lawfully be married.

**Minister invites the Groom to say:** “I declare that I know of no legal reason why I [full name] may not be joined in marriage to [full name of Bride].”

**Minister invites the Bride to say:** “I declare that I know of no legal reason why I [full name] may not be joined in marriage to [full name of Groom].”

## 6. Prayer

### Summary

*Prayer is an important part of a Christian wedding. You are coming before God to make solemn and legal promises, and therefore need the blessing of God on your marriage. Choose the prayer with care, and indicate the number of your choice at the end of the section on page 17.*

#### **Choice 6:1**

“God of love, ever gracious and ever kind, we pray for A and C as they take the vows of marriage. In repentance and in faith may they know you as a God of mercy and new beginnings, who forgives our failures, restores our wholeness, and renews our hope.”

“God of love, ever present and ever faithful, may A and C be conscious that their marriage is both your will and your delight. May the promises they make govern the life they will lead.

May your presence surround them, your faithfulness encourage them, and your Spirit strengthen and guide them: through Jesus Christ our Lord.” **Amen.**

#### **Choice 6.2**

Faithful God, only and eternal, source of life and spring of love, we thank and praise you for bringing A and C to this day, and we pray for them.

Lord of life and love:

May their marriage be life-giving and life-long, enriched by your presence and strengthened by your grace; may they bring comfort and confidence to each other in faithfulness and trust.

Lord of life and love:

May the hospitality of their home bring refreshment and joy to all around them; may their love overflow to neighbours in need and embrace those in distress.

Lord of life and love:

May they discern in your word order and purpose for their lives; and may the power of your Holy Spirit lead them in truth and defend them in adversity.

Lord of life and love

May they nurture their family with devotion, see their children grow in body, mind and spirit and come at last to the end of their lives with hearts content and in joyful anticipation of heaven. Lord of life and love: **Amen**

#### **Choice 6:3**

“O God, whose work we know through all the human life that surges round us, we ask your blessing on this joyful day. We give thanks for all that brings A & C to this day:

We are grateful for friends and relatives whose care and love have helped them through the troubles of the past; whose patience and concern have been a constant source of strength and hope. These friends and relatives, many gathered here today, are cause for joy and thanks.

And we give thanks for parents, whose warm affection has pointed A & C toward the paths they travel now. On this happy day we know that their lives of pain and joy serve as models for the years to come.

Our prayer now, is for this couple that they may continue to grow in love and to mature as individuals. May all they undertake together be tempered by respect, understanding and acceptance of each other. And we pray for ourselves – that love may be a reality in our lives, inspiring our thoughts, motivating our actions, reaching out to others as a sign of hope in our world. In all that we do may we follow the example of Jesus the Christ.” **Amen.**

#### **Choice 6:4**

“Oh God, bless us with a sense of your presence as we gather here. Keep us awake to the wonder of things which fill our days. Deepen in us the spirit of our loving, both for those close

to us, and for those who, though stranger, need our concern. Especially we ask for your blessing on A & C whose marriage we celebrate this day. Help them, as they make their promises to each other, that they may pledge their vows with sincerity, knowing full well the meaning of the words they say. And grant to us all a heightened sense of joy in life because we share this moment with them.” **Amen.**

**Choice 6:5:**

“Eternal God, true and loving creator, we ask you to help A & C as they enter their marriage. Make them as conscious of your presence as they are of ours. We ask that you give them the confidence and strength that they need to remain true to each other.

These things we ask in the name of Jesus the Christ, who showed us perfect love by giving himself fully and completely for us. May love as true as this, guide you for all the rest of your lives together” **Amen.**

**Our selection under this section (6) is**

**Choice 6:** \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Giving of the Bride by her- father or escort**

**Summary (Choice 7.1-7.2)**

**Choice 7:1**

This traditional custom values the support and encouragement of your family and friends.

I therefore ask you \_\_\_\_ as (Father/Escort) of the Bride, and representing the families linked on the occasion: Do you give your blessing to the marriage of A & C?

The Father replies “I do”.



**Choice 7:2**

The Father can continue if required to lay a charge on the Groom.

“A, I give my daughter C freely to you. I charge you to care for her, love her and protect her and make provision for her. Will you keep her always as the first love in your life? Do you so promise? The Groom responds, “I will”.



**Summary (Choice 7.3-7.5)**

Today with women having independence this part of the ceremony with the father alone being involved is more symbolic than real. The following choices can be substituted with both sets of parents being involved.

**Choice 7:3**

**The Minister says,** “It is important for parents to realise that when their children marry, a new relationship comes into being. The parents, by their presence, are saying to A & C that they now have full responsibility for their lives and the right to make their own decisions to which they, as parents, pledge their loving support.”

The parents face the couple and say,

**Groom’s Parents** “We give A to you C, may you find deep happiness in each other’s love.”



**Bride's Parents:** "We give C to you A, may you have a rich and full life together."

**Choice 7:4**

**The Minister repeats as in 7:3 above"**

**Minister continues; Do you give your blessing to this marriage?**

All parents respond together. "We do."

**Choice 7:5**

**The Minister repeats as in 7:3 above**

**Groom's Parents:** A, we give you our blessing. And C, we welcome you into our family and give our son into your care

**Bride's Parents:** "C, we give you our blessing. And A we welcome you into our family and give our daughter into your care."

**8. The Promises**

**Summary**

*Here you can choose from a range of promises that suit what you want to say to each other Review the choices , changing words if you wish, and if you need advice feel free to ask your minister.*

**Choice 8.1**

**The minister asks the Groom:** "A, will you take C to be your wife in Christian marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honour and protect her, in times of prosperity and health, and in times of trouble and suffering, and be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?"

**The Groom replies:** "I will."

**The minister says to the Bride:** "C, will you take A to be your husband in Christian marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honour and protect him, in times of prosperity and health, and in times of trouble and suffering, and be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?" **The Bride replies:** "I will."

**Choice 8.2**

A, *[Bride's name here]*

I promise

To support you as you pursue your dreams, both large and small

To encourage you to be the best that you can be, and to grow both as an individual and within our marriage,

To give you wise, selfless counsel on all matters,

To hold you and comfort you in difficult times,

To love, cherish and be faithful to you as long as we both shall live.

C, *[Groom's name here]*

I promise

To support you as you pursue your dreams, both large and small

To encourage you to be the best that you can be, and to grow both as an individual and within our marriage,

To give you wise, selfless counsel on all matters,

To hold you and comfort you in difficult times,

To love, cherish and be faithful to you as long as we both shall live.



### **Choice 8.3**

A. *[Bride's name here]*,

I promise to respect you as your own person and to realise that your interests, desires and needs are no less important than my own. I promise to share with you my time and my attention and to bring joy, strength and imagination to our relationship. I promise to keep myself open to you, to let you see through the window of my world into my innermost fears and feelings, secrets and dreams. I promise to grow along with you, to be willing to face changes in order to keep our relationship alive and exciting. I promise to love you in good times and in bad, with all I have to give and all I feel inside in the only way I know how. Completely and forever

A. *[Groom's name here]*,

I promise to respect you as your own person and to realise that your interests, desires and needs are no less important than my own. I promise to share with you my time and my attention and to bring joy, strength and imagination to our relationship. I promise to keep myself open to you, to let you see through the window of my world into my innermost fears and feelings, secrets and dreams. I promise to grow along with you, to be willing to face changes in order to keep our relationship alive and exciting. I promise to love you in good times and in bad, with all I have to give and all I feel inside in the only way I know how. Completely and forever



## **9. Added Option for friends and relatives**

### **Summary**

*You may wish your parents, family and friends to make the following promise*

### **Choice 9.1**

**Minister says:** if you wish to support and encourage A & C throughout their married life will you please stand. Please reply to my question by saying "We do." "Do you give your blessing to this marriage of A and C, and promise always to support and encourage them? . Reply "**We Do.**"



## **10. The Vows**

### **Summary**

*The words said here must comply with the legal words written down in these options. Option 1 is the traditional words while option 2 shortens the vows by taking out part of the first line and using more modern language.*

### **Choice 10.1**

**The Groom says:**

“I call upon these persons here present to witness that I, **[Full name of the Groom]**, do take thee, **[Full name of Bride]**, to be my lawful wedded wife in accordance with God's holy will, 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. This is my faithful promise and in the presence of God I make this vow.”

**The Bride says:**

“I call upon these persons here present to witness that I, **[Full name of the Bride]**, do take thee, **[Full name of the Groom]**, to be my lawful wedded husband in accordance with God's holy will, 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. This is my faithful promise and in the presence of God I make this vow.”



**Choice 10.2**

**The Groom says:**

“I **[Full name of the Groom]** take you **[Full name of the Bride]** to be my wedded wife in accordance with God's holy will, 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. This is my faithful promise and in the presence of God I make this vow.

**The Bride says:** “I **[Full name of the Bride]** take you **[Full name of the Groom]** to be my wedded husband in accordance with God's holy will, 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. This is my faithful promise and in the presence of God I make this vow.”



**11. The Rings Prayer and 12. Giving of rings**

**Summary**

*There are several choices here for the minister offering prayer and the words said by the Groom and Bride as they exchange rings. Each may respond to the other when offering the ring but it is not a requirement.*

**11. The Prayer**

Before the prayer the Minister first says; “Wedding rings serve as the symbol of the vows you have just spoken. They are the outward and visible sign of an inward and invisible love which binds your hearts together. As they are of the finest of earth's materials so your love is of the richest of spiritual values. As rings are without edge or seam, having no beginning and no end, so they symbolise the perfection of a love that cannot end.”

**Choice 11.1**

”Bless these rings, O God, to be the visible sign of the vows here made, that each who gives a ring and each who wears one may ever be reminded of their promises, evermore loving and growing in the spirit of your love. *Amen.*”



**Choice 11.2**

“God our Father, from all eternity you love us; Lord Jesus Christ, in love you came among us; Holy Spirit, you gave us love as your greatest gift. Bless the giving and receiving of *this ring/these rings*, symbol(s) of unending love and faithfulness and reminder(s) of the promises made this day. We ask it in your Name which is above every Name, the Name of Jesus. **Amen.**”

### **Choice 11.3**

“Heavenly Father, source of everlasting love, revealed to us in Jesus Christ and poured into our hearts through your Holy Spirit; that love which many waters cannot quench, neither the floods drown; that love which is patient and kind, enduring all things without end; by your blessing, let these rings be to A and C symbols to remind them of the covenant made this day through your grace in the love of your Son and in the power of your Spirit.” **Amen**

## **12. Words used when giving the ring**

### **Choice 12.1**

The Groom says, “This ring I give you, in token of our marriage vows. May it ever be a symbol of the unbroken bond of our love.”

The Bride says, “This ring I give you, in token of our marriage vows. May it ever be a symbol of the unbroken bond of our love.”

### **Choice 12.2**

The Groom says, “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, within the love of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.”

The Bride says, “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, within the love of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.”

### **Choice 12.3**

The Groom says, “I give you this ring in God's name as a symbol of all that we have promised and all that we shall share.”

The Bride says, “I give you this ring in God's name as a symbol of all that we have promised and all that we shall share.”

### **Choice 12.4**

The Groom says, “This ring I give you in token and pledge of our constant faith and steadfast love.”

The Bride says, “This ring I give you in token and pledge of our constant faith and steadfast love.”

### **Choice 12.5 OR 12.6**

## Summary

In all of these options you may choose to respond when receiving the ring thus:

### Either

#### Choice 12.5

"I accept this ring from you, and I wear it as a sign of my love.

#### Choice 12.6

"This ring will always be for you a sign of the promises you have made, and the bond of marriage between us.

## 13. The Declaration of Marriage

### Summary

*It is a requirement in law that the Minister, after the vows have been made and before the service finishes, pronounces that you are husband and wife.*

*The minister joins their right hands together and addresses the congregation*

#### Choice 13.1

A and C have declared before God and before you that they will live together in Christian marriage; they have made sacred promises to each other, and have symbolised their marriage today by joining hands and by the giving and receiving of a ring/rings. I therefore by the authority granted to me as a minister of Jesus Christ pronounce them to be husband and wife, in the name of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Whom God has joined together, Let no one separate. Amen.

#### Choice 13:2

Forasmuch as A & C have consented to live together in Christian marriage and have witnessed the same before God and this congregation and have pledged their faith each to the other and have declared the same by joining of hands and by giving and receiving a ring, therefore by the authority granted to me as a minister of Jesus Christ, I pronounce that they are husband and wife together, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Those whom God has joined together let no one separate. Amen.

## 14. Marriage Blessing

### Summary

*Choose the words that reflect the privilege and honour that you have in receiving God's blessing on your marriage.*

#### At the Altar

You may kneel at the altar or stand please indicate here      KNEEL  /STAND

**Make your decision on choices after Choice 14:13 at page 27**

**The Minister prays;**

#### Choice 14.1

May the Lord bless you and take care of you;  
may the Lord be kind and gracious to you;  
may the Lord look on you with favour  
and give you peace. Amen

**Choice 14.2.**

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face shine upon you  
and be gracious to you;  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and  
give you peace. Amen

**Choice 14.3**

God of life and beginnings, you created man and woman in your likeness and joined them together in union of body and heart; God of love and forgiveness, you loved us in Jesus Christ who humbled himself to death on a cross; God of grace and strength, you bring your people to faith and fill them with your presence. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, for you have created joy and gladness, pleasure and delight, love, peace and fellowship. Pour out the abundance of your blessing upon *A and C* in their new life together. Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts, and a crown upon their heads. Bless them in their work and in their companionship; awake and asleep, in joy and in sorrow, in life and in death. Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that banquet where your saints feast for ever in your heavenly home. We ask this through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

**Choice 14.4.**

Go forth into the world in peace,  
Be of good courage,  
Hold fast to that which is good.  
Render to no one evil for evil.  
Strengthen the faint hearted,  
Support the weak,  
Help the afflicted,  
Show honour to all.  
Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

**Choice 14.5**

All praise and blessing to you, God of love, creator of the universe, maker of man and woman in your likeness, source of blessing for married life. All praise to you, for you have created courtship and marriage, joy and gladness, feasting and laughter, pleasure and delight. May your blessing come in full upon *A and C*. May they know your presence in their joys and in their sorrows. May they reach old age in the company of friends and come at last to your eternal kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Choice 14:6**

“This day promises have been made, love is proclaimed and life is re-affirmed. For this we give to God our thanks and praise.  
We pray for *A & C*, may the love they have known through their family and friends continue to sustain and encourage them. May the love of Christ keep them open-hearted, broad-minded and full of love for each other. May they find the strength to go triumphantly through all the pains and pleasures of life. May they go on learning forgiveness and patience; have courage in times of trouble and humility in success. With them, give us faith. Let love keep

us hopeful; and hope keep us joyful as we commit ourselves to proclaiming your love in our world. This we ask in and through the name of Jesus Christ. "Amen."

**Choice 14:7**

"God, in whose presence we live all our days, we give you thanks for the gift of life and for the love that continually sustains it. Today we thank you for marriage which you have blessed, to protect and strengthen our human love.

We give you thanks that A & C have found love in each other and through it a new meaning in life. Be with them in their marriage; bless them in their happiness, in the sharing of daily life, in coping with failure and success, in resisting temptation and selfishness. Increase their love for each other and their trust in you. May they today and every day know and enjoy your loving kindness which never ends.

Hear these our prayers and the unspoken prayers of our hearts which we offer in the spirit of Jesus Christ. "Amen."

**Choice 14.8**

"Now, may the courage of the early morning's dawning,  
The strength of eternal hills and wide open fields,  
The joy of silent streams and the gentle wind,  
The beauty of flowered gardens and the song of birds,  
And the faith of youth be in your hearts:  
And the love of God,  
That alone can build happiness,  
That makes family love flourish with the  
Radiance of great joy be with you always.  
And the peace of a quiet evening's ending  
And of the midnight,  
Be yours now and forever. Amen."

**Choice 14:9**

***This option involves the congregation in a response [BOLD].***

*(Please note if you make this choice then it will need to be printed in the marriage service)*

**The Minister prays,** "Loving Spirit,  
Grant to A & C, That in giving and forgiving  
they may receive from each other lasting joy,

***Congregation response in Bold***

**Bind them together with cords that cannot be broken.  
Bind them together with love.**

Grant that they may always take delight in each other,  
and each remain the other's heart's desire.

**Bind them together with cords that cannot be broken.  
Bind them together with love.**

May they reach such trust and confidence in each other  
as shall keep them from unnecessary distress.  
May they find courage to meet  
the heartaches, disappointments and agonies life can bring.

**Be their rock, their fortress, for they put their trust in you.**

Help them to look beyond their own family  
And their own concerns  
To see the world, suffering and struggling,  
The world you have given us to share with one another.

**Open their eyes and their hearts.**

Give them grace to accept that they are mortal,  
To face the possibility of death  
And the separation it must bring.

**Jesus, you are resurrection, you are life.**

All praise and glory to you most gracious God,  
For in the beginning you created us men and women.  
Grant your blessing then, we pray, to A & C,  
So that in marriage they may be a source of blessing  
To each other and to all,  
And live together in holy love until their lives end.

**Amen.**

**Choice 14:10**

“A & C, May Christ’s love purify your love for each other,  
Christ’s humanity keep you sensitive and practical.  
May the Light of the world illuminate your way ahead,  
The Bread of heaven nourish you,  
The true Vine enliven you.  
May Christ be the beginning  
Of a new, fulfilled and blessed life,  
And Christ the end.

**Our selection under this section (14) is**

**Choice 14: \_\_\_\_\_**

*Note: If Marriage Candles are to be used then you will light the centre candle together after the Blessing.*

**15. Signing of the Register**

**Summary**

*You must choose two witnesses who know you. They will hear the legal parts of the ceremony and sign the wedding registers after you have both signed. The Bride signs the name she held before the ceremony.*

If there are two ministers at your wedding one conducts the marriage ceremony and the other registers the wedding and writes out your wedding certificate.

If a wedding certificate is required in the future, application has to be made to a minister at Wren’s Cathedral and not to the Registrar of Marriages.

**16. Minister’s Address**

The minister conducting the wedding will give a short address not lasting more than ten minutes. They are always words of encouragement and, at times, humorous!



Now Complete the two check lists offered next. You may e-mail your choices to your minister but keep a record in your check list.

Now please turn to volume two to consider your hymns, poems, readings and music.