

Dearly beloved

We have come together in the presence of God  
to witness the marriage of N and N,  
and to ask God's blessing on them  
as we share their joy.

Marriage is a 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 N 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 woman and a man 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 grow 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.

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

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

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

Bless N and N 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:

Blessed be God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
as in the beginning, so now and forever. Amen.