

Please find below a collation of some examples of introductions, welcomes and giving away of the bride.

Introductions

"Dear friends and family, we are gathered here today to witness and celebrate the union of _____ and _____ in marriage. In the years they have been together, their love and understanding of each other has grown and matured, and now they have decided to live their lives together as husband and wife."

"Dear friends and family, we are gathered here today to witness and celebrate the union of _____ and _____ in marriage. Through their time together, they have come to realise that their personal dreams, hopes, and goals are more attainable and more meaningful through the combined effort and mutual support provided in love, commitment, and family; and so they have decided to live together as husband and wife."

"We are gathered here, not to witness the beginning of what will be, but rather what already is. We do not create this marriage, because we cannot. We can and do, however, celebrate with _____ and _____ the wondrous and joyful occurrence that has already taken place in their lives, and the commitment they make today."

"Ladies and gentlemen, family and friends, we are gathered here today to witness and celebrate the joining of _____ and _____ in marriage. With love and commitment, they have decided to live their lives together as husband and wife."

"Welcome everyone. _____ and _____ have chosen you, those special and important to them, to witness and celebrate the beginning of their life together. Today, as we create this marriage, we also create a new bond and new sense of family - one that will undoubtedly include all who are present here today."

"We are here today to join _____ and _____ in a life of mutual commitment. It is fitting and appropriate that you, the family and friends of _____ and _____, be here to witness and to participate in their union. For the ideals, the understanding, and the mutual respect which they bring to their life together had their roots in the love and friendship and guidance you have given them. The union of two people makes us aware of the changes wrought by time. But the new relationship will continue to draw much of its beauty and meaning from the intimate associations of their past."

"_____ and _____, today you are surrounded by your friends and family, all of whom have gathered here to witness your marriage and to share in the joy of this special occasion. Today, as you join yourselves in marriage, there is a vast and unknown future stretching out before you. The possibilities and potentials of your married life are great; and now falls upon your shoulders the task of choosing your values and making real your dreams. Through your commitment to each other, may you grow and nurture a love that makes both of you better people, a love that continues to give you great joy, and also a passion for living that provides you with energy and patience to face the responsibilities of life."

"_____ and _____ - Today you enter as individuals, but you will leave here as husband and wife, blending your lives, expanding your family ties, and embarking upon the grandest adventure of human interaction. The story of your life together is still yours to write. All those present have come to witness and celebrate your love and commitment this day - eager to a part of the story not yet told."

_____ & _____, today you celebrate one of life's greatest moments and give recognition to the worth and beauty of love, as you join together in vows of marriage.

_____ and _____ welcome you, their family and friends. Each of you has given something of yourself into their lives. It is fitting then that you share in this celebration of their commitment to each other and to their lives joined in marriage.

Today is the day that _____ and _____ will formally and publicly make their promises to one another. Although this is indeed a high point, marriage is a journey not a destination. Marriage is more than any one single event or promise. It is a series of decisions that have been made, and will continue to be made over and over again, every day, that shows each of their care and concern for the one whom they each love most in the world. Marriage is a promise that is renewed daily through a couples actions and a responsibility taken on in the spirit of faith, and hope, and love, that brings comfort in times of sadness and heightens our greatest joy.

The uniting of these two friends to establish a new family is an important and memorable event. It brings together two separate families and backgrounds and creates a union that is a sign of hope and joy for the future.

In their love for each other, which they publicly express in this ceremony, _____ and _____ demonstrate not only their joy in the present but their commitment to share the future together. This is a time of celebration for all of you who know and love them.

We are gathered here today to take part in that most time-honoured celebration of the human family, uniting a woman and a man in marriage. _____ and _____ have come to witness before us, telling of their love for each other. We remember that theirs is a love whose source is the affection of those who loved them into being. We remind them that they are performing an act of complete faith, each in the other; that the heart of their marriage will be the relationship they create. In a world where faith often falls short of expectation, it is a tribute to these two who now join hands and hearts in perfect faith.

It is one of life's richest surprises when the accidental meeting of two people leads them to proceed together along a common path. It is indeed one of life's finest experiences when this chance relationship grows into a permanent bond of love. This meeting and growing is what brings us together today - the uniting in marriage of these two friends. The love GROOM and BRIDE feel for each other, the love that is expressed here today, demonstrates not only their joy in the present but their commitment and excitement in sharing the future. This is a time of celebration for all of us who know and love them.

It was once said that falling in love is like being first to discover the most beautiful thing in the world, to find something so lovely that no one else had even noticed. Love often starts in little ways. It comes quietly with a smile, a glance, or a touch, but you know it's there because suddenly you're not alone. Love means finally finding a place in this world that shelters you and is your very own - where you feel you have been forever and where you will live, grow and learn. The beautiful thing about love is that it's an experience we share with all people throughout the world. And yet, to everyone who falls in love, it is the most unique and precious thing in the world.

Deciding to join together in marriage is the ultimate expression of love. Marriage is a commitment to life, the best that two people can find and bring out in each other. It offers opportunities for sharing and growth that no other relationship can equal, a physical and emotional joining that is promised for a lifetime. Within the circle of its love, marriage encompasses all of life's most important relationships - a wife and a husband are each other's best friend, confidant, lover, teacher, listener, and critic. Within marriage happiness is fuller, memories are fresher and commitment is stronger. It encourages and nurtures new life, new experiences, and new ways of expressing a love that is deeper than life.

Friends, I call upon everyone here present to be a fellow witness with me in this marriage between NAME and NAME. We are here, not only to witness their commitment to each other, but also to wish them well and every happiness for their life together. In their relationship they have reached the conviction that they are for each other. They see this commitment as a serious occasion, they approach it with a sense of reverence, but also with joy and happiness.

Real love between a man and a woman is perhaps the highest experience that is possible to humankind. Such love reduces selfishness, deepens personalities, but above all gives life new purpose and meaning.

Love in marriage is something beyond the warmth and glow, the excitement and romance of being deeply in love. It is caring as much about the welfare and happiness of your marriage partner as about your own. But real love is not being totally absorbed in each other. It is looking outward in the same direction, together. Love makes burdens lighter because you divide them, it makes joys more intense because you share them. It makes you stronger so you can reach out and become involved with life in ways you dared not risk alone.

We are here today for a celebration of love, friendship, laughter and family. Please join with me as a fellow witness in this marriage between NAME and NAME. We are here not only to witness their commitment to each other, but also to wish them well and every happiness for their life together.

NAME and NAME know that a happy marriage, will enable them to establish a home where there will be love and stability, where you, their family and friends will find welcome, peace and support, and which will be a base from which the influence of their shared, and we hope strengthened life today by this ceremony, can extend

NAME and NAME, it is our joy to witness and celebrate your wedding in a rich celebration, sustained as we are in the mysterious power of all creation whose core is Love. You come here today as individuals. You come to become one -- of course not to lose yourselves, but instead to promise a new life of unity and love. And we, your family and friends, have gathered here to share in your joy and to ask the infinite power in creation to bless you.

You will today promise to share your lives with another. You will share in moments of perfect joy, and you will share in moments that will require courage and strength. As you experience each and every moment in life may you always be aware, with the very depth of your soul, that you are not alone. May you always trust in one another and may you always cherish one another as you do today. With complete commitment, one to the other.

Friends, we have been invited here today to share with _____ and _____ a very important moment in their lives. In the years they have been together, their love and understanding of each other has grown and matured, and now they have decided to live their lives together as husband and wife.

Welcome, family, friends and loved ones. We gather here today to celebrate the wedding of NAME and NAME. You have come here to share in this formal commitment they make to one another, to offer your love and support to this union, and to allow NAME and NAME to start their married life together surrounded by the people dearest and most important to them.

Before we get started, let me introduce myself and explain a little about the ceremony. My name is NAME and I have the privilege of performing this marriage ceremony today. You are not here to simply hear words uttered in ceremony, or just to witness the first kiss between husband and wife. Your participation in this ceremony is as important as your participation in their lives. And toward the end, I will ask you to join me, in pronouncing them married. And so, let us begin....

Although this is their day, it is also a tribute to all of you. For knowing you and interacting with you has helped to make NAME and NAME who they needed to be to find each other. They would like to thank you all for that. All of you are the threads which are woven in the rich tapestry of their lives. Each one of you is an important piece in the story it tells. It's the fabric that they wrap around themselves and take comfort in when the world seems cold. And on days like today when everything is right in their world, that tapestry is proudly spread out and displayed for everyone to see, with all the glorious colours and textures that your diversity adds. You all hold a place in their hearts reserved for those that they have chosen to call family and friends, and they are deeply grateful for each and every one of you here today.

Everyone, please be seated. Bride, Groom, You're getting married!
Before we start, take a breath and take a look around you.
Your family, your friends, have all come to share in this with you. We've come from PLACES, and so many places in between. We have friends from childhood, high school, college, and work.

We have brothers, and sisters and cousins, aunts and uncles, grandparents, and, dearest of all, moms and dads. Thank you all for coming.

True marriage begins well before the wedding day, and the efforts of marriage continue well beyond the ceremony's end. A brief moment in time and the stroke of the pen are all that is required to create the legal bond of marriage, but it takes a lifetime of love, commitment, and compromise to make marriage durable and everlasting. Today you declare your commitment to each other before family and friends, your yesterdays were the path to this moment, and your journey to a future of togetherness becomes a little clearer with each new day.

Marriage is a vital social institution. The exclusive commitment of two individuals to each other nurtures love and mutual support; it brings stability to our society. For those who choose to marry, and for their children, marriage provides an abundance of social benefits, as well as obligations - a social institution of the highest importance.

Ultimately there comes a moment when a decision must be made. Two people who love each other must ask themselves how much they hope for as their love grows and deepens, and how much risk they are willing to take. Commitment may well be a fearful gamble. Because it is the nature of love to create, a marriage itself is something which has to be created, such that as we come together in marriage, we become a new creature.

_____ and _____, the time has come to forget all the stress of planning this day and simply enjoy your friends and family who have gathered to spend this day with you. This group of loved ones will, likely, never be together in the same place again. Through quiet reflection and nostalgia, think about how each person has touched your life and why they are here with you today.

_____ and _____, today you choose each other before your family and friends, to begin your life together. For all the tomorrows that follow, you will choose each other over and over again, in the privacy of your hearts. Let your love and friendship guide you, as you learn and grow together. Experience the wonders of the world, even as patience and wisdom calm the restless nature. Through your partnership, triumph over the challenges in your path. Through the comfort of loving arms, may you always find a safe place to call home.

Friends and Family of the BRIDE and GROOM, welcome and thank you for being here on this important day. We are gathered together to celebrate the very special love between BRIDE and GROOM, by joining them in marriage. All of us need and desire to love and to be loved. And the highest form of love between two people is within a monogamous, committed relationship. BRIDE and GROOM, your marriage today is the public and legal joining of your souls that have already been united as one in your hearts. Marriage will allow you a new environment to share your lives together, standing together to face life and the world, hand-in-hand. Marriage is going to expand you as individuals, define you as a couple, and deepen your love for one another. To be successful, you will need strength, courage, patience and a really good sense of humour. So, let your marriage be a time of waking each morning and falling in love with each other all over again.

Good evening, welcome to this most important moment in the lives of this couple. We invite you to leave behind the worries and concerns of every day life and join us in the celebration of their marriage. This is an opportunity for us to share not only in the joy of BRIDE and GROOM's love but also to reaffirm and appreciate the love and the friendship we experience in our own lives. May we all celebrate by being fully present during our short time together. BRIDE and GROOM have chosen this setting in which to be married because it provides an appropriate backdrop for the public affirmation of their love. BRIDE and GROOM view marriage as a coming together at all levels of being - mind, body, and spirit. A marital commitment includes the willingness to be open and vulnerable, and the courage to take risks. Marriage is a conscious act of will. To remain in marriage we must continually renew our will to be married. Marital partners accept the challenges that living together in love offers. They decide that they will face the fears that are a necessary part of establishing and nurturing an intimate relationship. And you, BRIDE and GROOM have made

the commitment to create and recreate this conscious partnership. Those of us who are married or in relationships may take this moment to consciously reaffirm our commitment to our partners and ourselves. Marriage consists of entrusting our deepest selves into the loving care of another. It is a public and legal act to be sure. It is also an emotional and spiritual act. The spiritual aspect of marriage must be embraced openly, seriously, and completely for the marriage to endure. BRIDE and GROOM commit themselves today to each other in sacred trust. They promise to embrace conflict as well as peace; to work as well as play; to struggle as well as coast; to give as well as receive; and to be with, stay with, and move toward one another.

Today there will be no dearly beloved, no betrothed, and no ancient rhyme of the married. Today there are no dead languages to solemnise vows that are very much alive and will remain so for a lifetime. Today promises become permanent and friends become family. However, this day is not about the words spoken or the rings exchanged, nor is it about grand pronouncements and recessional marches. This day – the day of BRIDE and GROOM’s wedding – is about love. Love isn’t just a word; it’s an action. Love isn’t something you say, it’s something you do. Love is genuine, honest, and open, compassionate and kind, passionate and blind, love doesn’t know space or time, nor look through jealous eyes, and in the modified words of Paul in his letter to the Corinthians, “Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Love never dies.” There are many different kinds of love, almost if not all of which are represented here today. There is romantic love, the love of parents and children, of brothers and sisters and family, and love among friends. Not only do BRIDE and GROOM love one another romantically – and they do, you can see it in every look, every touch, every moment they’re together – they also love one another as friends. In fact, they’re best friends, constantly giggling and taunting and teasing and very plainly and obviously having fun together. That love and enjoyment of each other as best friends will sustain them through this marriage. In addition, the love collectively in this room, from friends and family, will help sustain and support the promises they make today. All of us here will help solidify this bond, as these two individuals are joined as husband and wife. This new journey will be at times richly rewarding and extremely difficult, but, most importantly, it will be a journey you take together. Marriage is much more than your signatures on a legal contract. You are promising, in front of all these people you love, that you want to be with each other and only each other for the rest of your lives, and that you will do everything in your power to honour the promises you are making here today. For their part, the people who love you will also do everything in their power to try to help you hold up your end of the bargain.

We have been invited here today to witness and celebrate the uniting in marriage of BRIDE and GROOM. They are taking the first step of their new beginning; their new life together. The ability and desire for one human being to love another is perhaps the most precious and fulfilling gift that has been entrusted to us. It is an all-consuming task, a lifelong endeavour – the journey we’ve been preparing for all of our lives. Loving someone is a reason to stretch beyond our limits, to become more for the sake of the other. It is to look into the soul of your beloved and accept what you see. Loving is the ultimate commitment which challenges humans to become all that we are meant to be. As they join in marriage today, BRIDE and GROOM are announcing to the world that they are welcoming that challenge.

Hello and welcome! May your hearts be glad and your spirits be light. For every thing there is a season and a time for every purpose. Now is the time for a wedding. BRIDE and GROOM have specially asked you all here today. In honour of this event, they will say heartfelt words, perform age-old rituals and validate this event in your presence, their family and friends. They will laugh and cry, dance and sing, and above all, celebrate their love with the blessings of the people who matter most to them. You have been invited to share in their joy because of your bonds to the bride and groom and their families.

Hello everyone and welcome. Thank you for joining us on this day of gladness and good fortune. BRIDE and GROOM are coming together to publicly proclaim their undying love through the celebration of their marriage. We are all here to learn about loving and being loved, and to watch

the miracle of love exchanged enriches every one of us. Therefore, we appreciate the opportunity to witness the shared love of this beautiful couple. Their enthusiasm is contagious, their certainty of their destiny together is inspiring and their great expectations give us all a glimpse of the heights love can reach. Marriage is a very special place. It's an oasis, a haven, and a sanctuary where we can safely learn about ourselves in the presence of another.

We are here on this magnificent and beautiful day to celebrate one of life's greatest moments — we are all present to give recognition to the worth and beauty of love — and to publicly witness the creation of an outward marriage bond that BRIDE and GROOM have already been creating inwardly. Their love and intention has created this marriage and we are gathered here today to join in the celebration and acknowledgment of that bonding.

Love has brought BRIDE and GROOM together. But what do we mean by love? When we love, we see things other people do not. We see beneath the surface to the qualities, which make our beloved special and unique. To see with loving eyes, is to know inner beauty. And to be loved is to be known, as we are known to no other. Marriage is to belong to each other through a unique and diverse collaboration, like two threads crossing in different directions, yet weaving one tapestry together. The secret of love and marriage is to be in love and in trust, to know in your hearts that you want only the best for each other. It takes dedication, to stay open to one another, to learn and grow, even when it is difficult to do so. And it takes faith, to go forward together without knowing what the future holds for you both. The true art of married life is an inner spiritual journey. It is a mutual enrichment, a give and take between two personalities, a mingling of two endowments, which diminishes neither, but enhances both. It is, ultimately, the emergence of the highest selves of each person.

You have come here today, BRIDE and GROOM because you believe that by being together your lives will be better and more productive than they would be apart. In marriage, a new perspective is created with the joining of male and female views of life. Through this partnership, each partner becomes stronger, each becomes wiser and each becomes more loving. But the benefits we receive through marriage are not free. If we don't make time to tell our partner how much we value what we have together, we will begin to take each other for granted and lose the very special quality that we originally united to enjoy. The importance of marriage to humans is so great, that it is the oldest rite or ritual of any kind recorded in history; it's scope so great that it is virtually the only custom recognised by every human government and religion. It is into this dynamic and wonderful state of partnership that you two come, today, to be joined.

Hello & welcome. We are here to witness the creation of a marriage. Marriage is the most intimate of all relationships. It is the ultimate commitment to love, share, trust and grow with another person. It is the beginning of a whole new life. By entering into this marriage BRIDE and GROOM are stating publicly, the feelings and commitments they have held privately between them. They are proclaiming their love for, their trust in and their loyalty to the one they cherish above all others. Marriage has been described as living in love with your best friend. Love is one of the few constants in the universe. It is reality, affinity and communication. Only love is capable of joining living beings by their deepest essence, uniting, completing and fulfilling them. Marriage is a symbol of the commitment to create a lifelong partnership based on love.

Today we have come together to witness the joining of these two lives.
For them, out of the routine of ordinary life, the extraordinary has happened.
They met each other, fell in love and are finalising it with their wedding today.

Marriage is the clasping of hands, the blending of hearts, the union of two lives as one. Marriage is caring as much about the welfare and happiness of your marriage partner as your own. It is not total absorption into each other. It is looking outward in the same direction together. Marriage makes burdens lighter because you divide them. It makes joys more intense because you share them. It makes you stronger, so that you can be involved with life in ways you dare not risk

alone. To make your relationship work will take love. This is the core of your marriage and why you are here today.

It will take trust, to know in your hearts that you truly want the best for each other.

It will take dedication, to stay open and honest with one another – and to learn and grow together.

It will take faith, to go forward together without knowing exactly what the future brings.

And it will take commitment, to hold true to the journey you both promised today to share together.

An intimate and secure relationship is not based on promises, but rather on trust, respect, faithfulness and the ability to forgive. A lasting marriage is based on all of these, bound together by love.

Definition of Marriage

Marriage is perhaps the greatest and most challenging adventure of human relationships. No ceremony can create your marriage; only you can do that – through love and patience; through dedication and perseverance; through talking and listening, helping and supporting and believing in each other; through tenderness and laughter; through learning to forgive, learning to appreciate your differences, and by learning to make the important things matter, and to let go of the rest. What this ceremony can do is to witness and affirm the choice you make to stand together as life-mates and partners.

Two people in love do not live in isolation. Their love is a source of strength with which they may nourish not only each other but also the world around them. And in turn, we, their community of friends and family, have a responsibility to this couple. By our steadfast care, respect, and love, we can support their marriage and the new family they are creating today.

What is marriage? Why do we get married?

We hear a lot of things about marriage in our everyday lives. The average television sitcom would have you believe that marriage, to paraphrase the band R.E.M., is the end of the world as you know it. That marriage is effectively the end of your life.

Today NAME and NAME respectfully submit that marriage is not an end but a beginning.

It's not a perfect beginning. It's not a clean slate. Marriage is a process. Marriage is growth.

Marriage is a bold step into an unknown future. It is risking who we are for the sake of who we can be.

NAME and NAME are coming into their marriage with individual personalities and individual histories. They've already chosen each other for their family, and today they are choosing to celebrate what has already begun and will continue to grow for years to come.

As Madeleine L'Engle wrote in *The Irrational Season*, "To marry is the biggest risk in human relations that a person can take. If we commit ourselves to one person for life this is not, as many people think, a rejection of freedom; rather it demands the courage to move into all the risks of freedom, and the risk of love which is permanent; into that love which is not possession, but participation."

Giving Away/ Family/Community Blessing

Today we gather for the happiest of ceremonies – the change of status from single individuals to a married couple. Traditionally, that change is indicated by passing the brides hand from her family to her husband-to-be. Who brings this bride to be married today?

Friends and Family welcome to this special occasion, the day when NAME and NAME take each others hand and begin their life together as husband and wife. They have asked me to especially thank you all for coming to share this day with them – the support, friendship and love offered by you all is truly appreciated. In times past it was custom for a woman to be 'given' from the protection of her father into that of her husband. This was the origin of the rite 'Giving away of the bride'. Times have changed and nowadays we like to mark this as the occasion when the families and friends of NAME and NAME show their joy and support of the marriage. I would now like to call on WHO to fulfil this custom before we continue with the ceremony.

Who then, on behalf of all here gathered today, presents this woman to be married to this man?

"Who gives this woman to be wedded to this man?"

"Who supports this couple in their marriage?"

"Who supports this woman in her marriage to this man?"

"Who gives this woman to be married to this man?"

"Who presents this woman to be married to this man?"

Answer: "I do" or "Her mother and I do" or "Her family and I do" or (in unison) "We do."

"Does (name) have (his/her) family's blessing to marry (name)?"

Answer: "(He/she) does"

Non-verbal

When they reach the end of the aisle, the father or parents of the bride hug her, and then hug her intended. No words are said.

If a couple walks up the aisle unaccompanied, they can walk first to their families, giving them each a flower and embracing, before meeting at the altar.

"Who gives this woman to be married to this man?"

Answer: "She gives herself, but with her family's blessing."

"(Parents' names), do you support your child's decision to join together in holy matrimony with (name), and do you vow to receive (him/her) as a member of your family from this day on?"

Answer: "With love in our hearts for both (name) and (name), we joyfully do."

When a Parent is No Longer Alive

"Who presents this woman to be married to this man?"

Answer: "On behalf of all that have gathered here, and of all those not able to be with us today, I do."

"Does this couple have the blessings of their family for this marriage?"

Answer: "With the knowledge that (deceased parent) loved and supported this union as much as I do, I freely give my blessing."

Or

Answer: "On behalf of those who are with us, and those who have gone before, I give my blessing to this union."

Honouring the Love of Your Family

"Today, as we join (name) and (name) in marriage, we celebrate them as they begin a new family together. Yet we also know that this new branch of the family tree will be strengthened and enriched by the love, traditions, and knowledge of their family roots.

Will you (parents' names) bless (couple's names) in their marriage? Will you celebrate them in their

times of joy, and bolster them and their marriage in times of hardship? "

Answer: "We will."

"This beautiful couple didn't get here all by themselves. They have been loved and cared for by you, their families, depending on you for sustenance, knowledge, guidance, and love. Without you, this day would not be possible. From this day forward, they will likely need your support in different ways, but they will still depend on that support. With this in mind, I ask (parent's names), as representatives of your family: will you take this (man/woman), (name), into your family and into your hearts?

Answer: "We will"

"Marriage is in itself a blessing. But doubly blessed is the couple who comes to the marriage altar with the approval and love of their families and friends. Who has the honour of presenting this woman to be married to this man?

Answer: "On behalf of her loving family and friends, I do."

Family Blessing/ Family Giveaway

In times past it was custom for a woman to be 'given' from the protection of her father into that of her husband. This was the origin of the rite 'Giving away of the bride'. Times have changed and nowadays we like to mark this as the occasion when families show their joy and support of the marriage. I would now like to call on their families to fulfil this custom before we continue with the ceremony.

Do you support NAME & NAME in this marriage? We do

Do you support NAME & NAME's decision to join together in holy matrimony and do you vow to receive each of them as a member of your family from this day on? We do

Will you, as NAME & NAME's families bless them in their marriage? Will you celebrate with them in their times of joy, and bolster them and their marriage in times of hardship?

May I ask that the parents of BRIDE and GROOM please rise.

This wedding is also a celebration of family. It is the blending of two families that have been separate up to this moment, but united from this day forward – blending their different traditions, strengthening the family tree. To honor this uniting of the families, Bride and Groom wish to ask their parent's blessing.

_____ and _____ do you offer this couple your goodwill?

Do you welcome Groom/Bride as a member of your family and give him your love and affection?

PARENTS SAY: We do.

The relationship between children and their parents is one that's often understated, yet very deep. And one of the rare occasions when it can be publicly acknowledged is at a wedding ceremony. On this occasion, NAME's parents proudly stand here beside their children representing their families. They are displaying, for all of us to see, their individual and combined love for BRIDE and GROOM.

Who brings this man and woman to be married to each other?

"We do."

And are you all willing to sustain and strengthen this marriage by giving BRIDE and GROOM the public commitment of your love and support through all the ups and downs ahead of them?

"We are."

Parents, please kindly be seated. Thank you.

The marriage of BRIDE and GROOM brings together two different families; two unique story lines, so a new chapter in their lives can begin to unfold. Though this relationship was formed out of the love these two have found in each other, their marriage will ultimately be blessed by the support of their families.

Who stands with this woman to symbolise her family's support of this union?

PARENTS SAY: We do.

Who stands with this man to symbolise his family's support of this union?

PARENTS SAY: We do.

Community Support

- Do you who are assembled here support this union and affirm that these two should be married today? (guests respond, "We Do")
- Will you who are present here today, surround this couple in love, offering them the joys of your friendship? Will you support this couple in their relationship? At times of conflict will you offer them the strength of your wisest counsel and the comfort of your thoughtful concern? At times of joy, will you celebrate with them, nourishing their love for one another? (guests respond, "We Will")
- The bonds this couple has made today are sacred and holy, and should not be broken. But nearly every relationship is tested at one point or another, by conflict, temptation, strife, and change. Will you, their loved ones, family, and friends, agree to help them keep those bonds holy, reminding them of their love for one another, and helping them cross through those stressful periods? (guests respond, "We Will")
- The rings that these two will give each other will be a reminder of their love, and the vows they will make here today. They have asked me to pass them around the room so that each of you, who is an important and loved member of their lives, can bless the rings and give your support for their marriage. (rings are passed from guest to guest)

A successful marriage is made up of two people, each putting the other before themselves and giving to that person 100% first, last, and always. As BRIDE and GROOM's journey unfolds there will be opportunities and challenges that will strain, and perhaps even weaken, them. They may move back and forth between the seasons of their love, sometimes strong as the autumn harvest time, and sometimes tender, tentative, and fragile as the springtime shoots that brave the frost. In those times they will need the support and caring of all of you who have come to celebrate this joyous union. So in the joining of these two families, I ask all of you to take a vow in their presence and in the presence of each other.

Do you pledge to honour and support their marriage? Will you always be there for them and embrace them with the love of family and the joy of sharing your lives with them?

"We will."

Will everyone please rise.

Will you who are present here today, surround BRIDE and GROOM in love, offering them the joys of your friendship, and supporting them in their marriage?

All: We will

You may be seated.