

# The Liturgy of the Word when celebrating the Sacrament of Matrimony

## Introduction

The usual pattern for the Liturgy of the Word is followed whenever the Sacrament of Matrimony is celebrated.

In all cases there are

- Readings (either two or three readings, but always including a Gospel reading)
- A psalm after the first reading
- A Gospel Acclamation before the Gospel reading

As noted below, a different pattern may be used when a Catholic marries someone who is not baptised,

**The full range of readings provided for the various forms of 'The Order of Matrimony' can be found on the parish website: [www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk](http://www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk)**

**For a short cut to the link for the readings and other guidance on marriage go to: <http://bit.ly/1nV54G4>**

## A. The Liturgy of the Word in 'The Order of Celebrating Matrimony WITHIN Mass'

If the Order of Matrimony is celebrated within Mass on certain days of the Year the readings (and prayers) must be taken from the Mass of that day.

Your priest will advise you if this is the case. Otherwise you are free to make your selection of readings from the texts which follow. It is not permitted to substitute other readings or songs in their place.

At least one of the readings you choose must be from those which speak explicitly of Marriage.

### *If there are to be three readings*

- the first is from the Old Testament (except during Eastertime when the first reading must be from the Book of the Apocalypse (Revelation))
- the second is from the New Testament
- the third is from the Gospel

### *If there are to be two readings*

- the first is from the Old Testament, except during Eastertime when the first reading must be from the Book of the Apocalypse (Revelation) or from the New Testament
- the third is from the Gospel

### *Psalm*

- It is good to ensure there is a certain consistency of theme between the psalm and the reading which precedes it.
- The expectation is that the Psalm will be sung by a cantor, with the congregation singing the response given. Alternative methods of singing the psalm might be discussed with your priest or musicians.

### *Gospel Acclamation*

- It is good to ensure there is a certain consistency of theme between the Gospel Acclamation and the reading from the Gospel which follows it.
- The Gospel Acclamation should be sung.

## B. The Liturgy of the Word in 'The Order of Celebrating Matrimony WITHOUT Mass'

You are free to make your selection of readings from the texts which follow. It is not permitted to substitute other readings or songs in their place.

At least one of the readings you choose must be from those which speak explicitly of Marriage. These readings are indicated by xxx below.

### *If there are to be three readings*

- the first is from the Old Testament (section A below, except during Eastertime when the first reading must be from the Book of the Apocalypse (Revelation))
- the second is from the New Testament
- the third is from the Gospel

### *If there are to be two readings*

- the first is from the Old Testament, except during Eastertime when the first reading must be from the Book of the Apocalypse (Revelation) or from the New Testament
- the second is from the Gospel

### *Psalm*

- It is good to ensure there is a certain consistency of theme between the psalm and the reading which precedes it.
- The expectation is that the Psalm will be sung by a cantor, with the congregation singing the response given. Alternative methods of singing the psalm might be discussed with your priest or musicians.

### *Gospel Acclamation*

- It is good to ensure there is a certain consistency of theme between the psalm and the reading from the Gospel which follows it.
- The Gospel Acclamation should be sung.

## C. The Liturgy of the Word in 'The Order of Celebrating Matrimony between a Catholic AND A CATECHUMEN OR A NON-CHRISTIAN'

In this case you are free to choose either one or two readings. If circumstances make it more desirable that there be only one, then it is proper that this be a Gospel reading.

At least one reading chosen must speak explicitly of Marriage. These readings are indicated by xxx below.

### *If there are to be two readings*

- the first is from the Old Testament (Section A below, except during Eastertime when the first reading must be from the Book of the Apocalypse (Revelation) or from the New Testament)
- the second is from the Gospel

### *Psalm*

- If there is to be a psalm then it is good that there is a certain consistency of theme between the psalm and the reading which follows or precedes it.
- The expectation is that the Psalm will be sung by a cantor, with the congregation singing the response given. Alternative methods of singing the psalm might be discussed with your priest or musicians.

### *Gospel Acclamation*

- If there is to be a Gospel Acclamation it is good to ensure there is a certain consistency of theme between the psalm and the reading from the Gospel which follows it.
- The Gospel Acclamation should be sung.