

# Choice of Readings

*Any Readings from the Bible are suitable for the ceremony but here are some examples.*

All readings and prayers will be read by the parish reader.

If a liturgical musician is providing music ask they can sing the psalm and the Alleluia.

The priest proclaims the Gospel but you can choose it.

At the end of this file there are examples of the Prayer of the Faithful but these can be amended or added to if you wish.

# OLD TESTAMENT READING & RESPONSORIAL PSALM

## Option 1

### FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis

1:26-28.31

*Male and female he created them.*

God said, ‘Let us make man in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves, and let them be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven, the cattle, all the wild beasts and all the reptiles that crawl upon the earth.’

God created man in an image of himself,  
in the image of God he created him,  
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying to them, ‘Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and conquer it. Be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven and all living animals on the earth.’ God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R: The Lord fills the earth with his love.**

They are happy, whose God is the Lord,  
the people he has chosen as his own.  
The Lord looks on those who revere him,  
and on those who hope in his love. **R**

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.  
The Lord is our help and our shield.  
In him do our hearts find joy.  
We trust in his holy name. **R**

May your love be upon us, O Lord,  
as we place all our hope in you. **R**

## Option 2

### FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis

2:18-24

*They become one body.*

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them; each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed:

'This at last is bone from my bones,  
and flesh from my flesh!  
This is to be called woman,  
for this was taken from man.'

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife and they become one body.

The word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R: Praise the name of the Lord.**

Praise the Lord from the heavens,  
praise him in the heights.  
Praise him, all his angels,  
praise him, all his host. **R**

Praise him, sun and moon,  
praise him, shining stars  
Praise him, highest heavens  
and the waters above the heavens. **R**

All earth's kings and peoples,  
earth's princes and rulers:  
young men and maidens,

old men together with children. **R**

Let them praise the name of the Lord  
for he alone is exalted.  
The splendour of his name  
reaches beyond heaven and earth. **R.**

### **Option 3**

#### **FIRST READING**

A reading from the book of Tobit.

8:4-8

*Bring us to old age together.*

On the evening of their marriage, Tobias said to Sarah, ‘You and I must pray and petition our Lord to win his grace and protection.’ They began praying for protection, and this was how he began:

‘You are blessed, O God of our fathers;  
blessed, too, is your name  
for ever and ever.  
Let the heavens bless you  
and all the things you have made  
for evermore.  
It was you who created Adam,  
you who created Eve his wife  
to be his help and support;  
and from these two the human race was born.  
It was you who said,  
“It is not good that the man should be alone;  
let us make him a helpmate like himself.”  
And so I do not take my sister  
for any lustful motive;  
I do it in singleness of heart.  
Be kind enough to have pity on her and on me  
and bring us to old age together.’

And together they said, ‘Amen, Amen.’

The word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**R: Give thanks to the Lord, Bless his holy name.**

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,  
all my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings. **R**

The Lord is compassion and love,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
As a father has compassion on his sons,  
the Lord has pity on those who fear him. **R.**

The love of the Lord is everlasting  
upon those who hold him in fear;  
his justice reaches out to children's children  
when they keep his covenant in truth. **R.**

### **Option 4**

#### **FIRST READING**

A reading from the book of Sirach 26:1-4

*NRSV Catholic Edition*

*(What is said here of a good wife is equally applicable to a good husband)*

Happy is the husband of a good wife; the number of his days will be doubled.  
A loyal wife brings joy to her husband, and he will complete his years in peace.  
A good wife is a great blessing; she will be granted among the blessings of the man  
who fears the Lord.

Whether rich or poor, his heart is content, and at all times his face is cheerful.

The word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Or you may choose this more contemporary translation*

*(What is said here of a good wife is equally applicable to a good husband)*

The husband of a good wife is a fortunate man; he will live twice as long because of her. A fine wife is a joy to her husband, and he can live out his years in peace.

A good wife is among the precious blessings given to those who fear the Lord. Whether they are rich or poor, they will be happy and always look cheerful.

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**R: Praise the name of the Lord**

Praise the Lord from the heavens,  
praise him in the heights.  
Praise him, all his angels,  
praise him, all his host. **R**

Praise him, sun and moon,  
praise him, shining stars.  
Praise him, highest heavens  
and the waters above the heavens. **R**

All earth's kings and peoples,  
earth's princes and rulers:  
young men and maidens,  
old men together with children. **R**

## **Option 5**

### **FIRST READING**

A reading from the book of Sirach 6:14-16

*NRSV Catholic Edition*

A Faithful friend is a sturdy shelter:  
    whoever finds one has found a treasure.  
A Faithful friend is beyond price;  
    no amount can balance their worth.

A Faithful friend is life-saving medicine;  
and those who fear the Lord will find one.

The word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Or you may choose this more contemporary translation*

A reading from the book of Sirach 6:14-16

*Good News Translation*

A faithful friend is like a safe shelter; find one, and you have found a treasure.  
Nothing else is as valuable; there is no way of putting a price on it. A faithful friend  
is like a medicine that keeps you in good health. Only those who fear the Lord can  
find such a friend.

The word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**R: Give thanks to the Lord, Bless his holy name.**

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,  
all my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings. **R**

The Lord is compassion and love,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
As a father has compassion on his sons,  
the Lord has pity on those who fear him. **R.**

The love of the Lord is everlasting  
upon those who hold him in fear;  
his justice reaches out to children's children  
when they keep his covenant in truth. **R.**

### **Option 6**

## **FIRST READING**

A reading from the Book of the Apocalypse.

*The marriage feast of the Lamb.*

I, John, seemed to hear the great sound of a huge crowd in heaven, singing,  
'Alleluia!' Victory and glory and power to our God!'

Then a voice came from the throne; it said, 'Praise, our God, you servants of his and all who, great or small, revere him'. And I seemed to hear the voices of a huge crowd, like the sound of the ocean or the great roar of thunder, answering, 'Alleluia! The reign of our Lord our God Almighty has begun; let us be glad and joyful and give praise to God, because this is the time for the marriage of the Lamb. His bride is ready, and she has been able to dress herself in dazzling white linen, because her linen is made of the good deeds of the saints.' The angel said, 'Write this: Happy are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.'

The word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**R: Praise the name of the Lord**

Praise the Lord from the heavens,  
praise him in the heights.  
Praise him, all his angels,  
praise him, all his host. **R**

Praise him, sun and moon,  
praise him, shining stars.  
Praise him, highest heavens  
and the waters above the heavens. **R**

Let them praise the name of the Lord  
for he alone is exalted.  
The splendour of his name  
reaches beyond heaven and earth. **R**



## NEW TESTAMENT READING

### Option 1

#### SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans.

8:31-35,37,39

*Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ!*

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Jesus Christ? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Nothing therefore can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

### Option 2

#### SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans.

12:1-2,9-18

*Offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing him.*

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

Do not let your love be a pretence, but sincerely prefer good to evil. Love each other as much as brothers should, and have a profound respect for each other. Work for the

Lord with untiring effort and with great earnestness of spirit. If you have hope, this will make you cheerful. Do not give up if trials come; and keep on praying. If any of the saints are in need you must share with them; and you should make hospitality you special care.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Option 3**

#### **SECOND READING**

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians. 12:31-13:8

*If I am without love, it will do me no good whatever.*

Be ambitious for the higher gifts. And I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them.

If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels, but speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are, and knowing everything, and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all. If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece, and if I let them take my body to burn it, but am without love, it will do me no good whatever.

Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.

Love does not come to an end.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Option 4**

#### **SECOND READING**

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians. 5:2, 21-33

*This mystery has many implications and I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.*

Follow Christ by loving as he loved you, giving himself up in our place. Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord.... Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless.

For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church. To sum up; you too, each one of you, must love his wife as he loves himself; and let every wife respect her husband.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **Option 5**

#### **SECOND READING**

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Colossians.

3:12-17

*Over all these, to keep them together and complete them, put on love.*

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Option 6

### SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St. John

3:18-24

*Our love is to be something real and active*

My children,  
our love is not to be just words or mere talk,  
but something real and active;  
only by this can we be certain  
that we are children of the truth  
and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence...

My dear people,  
if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience,  
we need not be afraid in God's presence,  
and whatever we ask him,  
we shall receive,  
because we keep his commandments  
and live the kind of life that he wants.

His commandments are these:  
that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ  
and that we love one another  
as he told us to.  
Whoever keeps his commandments  
lives in God and God lives in him.  
We know that he lives in us  
by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Option 7

### SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St. John

4:7-12

*God is love.*

My dear people,

let us love one another  
since love comes from God  
and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.  
Anyone who fails to love can never have known God,  
because God is love.  
God's love for us was revealed  
when God sent into the world his only Son  
so that we could have life through him;  
that is the love I mean:  
not our love for God,  
but God's love for us when he sent his Son  
to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.  
My dear people,  
since God has loved us so much,  
we too should love one another.  
No one has ever seen God;  
but as long as we love one another  
God will live in us  
and his love will be complete in us.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

### Option 1

#### Gospel Acclamation

1Jn 4:8.11

Alleluia, alleluia!  
God is love;  
let us love one another  
as God has loved us.  
Alleluia!

Priest: The Lord be with you.

**People: And with your spirit.**

Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matt 5:1-12

*Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.*

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

‘How happy are the poor in spirit;  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle:  
they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn:  
they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:  
they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful:  
they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart:  
they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers:  
they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.’

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.  
**People: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.**  
**Option 2**

**Gospel Acclamation**

1 Jn 4:12

Alleluia, alleluia!  
As long as we love one another  
God will live in us,  
and his love will be complete in us.  
Alleluia!

Priest: The Lord be with you.  
**People: And with your spirit.**  
Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 5:13-16  
*You are the light of the world.*

Jesus said to his disciples. 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hilltop cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.  
**People: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Option 3**

**Gospel Acclamation**

1 Jn 4:16

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Anyone who lives in love  
lives in God,  
and God lives in him.  
Alleluia!

Priest: The Lord be with you.  
**People: And with your spirit.**

Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 7:21.24-29  
*He built his house on rock.*

Jesus said to his disciples:  
‘It is not those who say to me, “Lord, Lord”, who will enter the kingdom of heaven,  
but the person who does the will of my Father in heaven.

‘Therefore, everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like  
a sensible man who built his house on rock. Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew  
and hurled themselves against the house, and it did not fall: it was founded on rock.  
But everyone who listens to these words of mine and does not act on them will be  
like a stupid man who built his house on sand. Rain came down, floods rose, gales  
blew and struck that house, and it fell; and what a fall it had!’

Jesus had now finished what he wanted to say, and his teachings made a deep  
impression on the people he taught them with authority, and not like their own  
scribes.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.  
**People: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.**

#### **Option 4**

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

1 Jn 4:7

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Everyone who loves  
is begotten by God,  
and knows God.  
Alleluia!

Priest: The Lord be with you.  
**People: And with your spirit.**  
Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 19:3-6



*What God has united, man must not divide.*

Some Pharisees approached Jesus, and to test him they said, ‘Is it against the Law for a man to divorce his wife on any pretext whatever?’ He answered, ‘Have you not read that the creator from the beginning made them male and female and that he said: This is why a man must leave father and mother, and cling to his wife, and the two become one body? They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.’

**Priest:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** **Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Option 5**

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

1 Jn 4:8.11

Alleluia, alleluia!

God is love; let us love one another  
as God has loved us.

Alleluia!

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And with your spirit.**

**Priest:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

**People:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 22.35-40

*This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it.*

A lawyer, to disconcert Jesus, put a question, ‘Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?’ Jesus said, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.’

**Priest:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** **Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Option 6**

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

1 Jn 4:7

Alleluia, alleluia!

Everyone who loves

is begotten by God,  
and knows God.  
Alleluia!

Priest: The Lord be with you.

**People: And with your spirit.**

Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Mark 10:6-9

*They are no longer two, but one body.*

Jesus said, 'From the beginning of creation God make them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.'

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Option 7

#### Gospel Acclamation

1 Jn 4:12

Alleluia, alleluia!

As long as we love one another

God will live in us,

and his love will be complete in us.

Alleluia!

Priest: The Lord be with you.

**People: And with your spirit.**

Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 2:1-11

*This was the first of the signs given by Jesus – at Cana in Galilee.*

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said, 'Woman why turn to me? My hour has not come yet.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews: each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with

water,’ and they filled them to the brim. ‘Draw some out now,’ he told them, ‘and take it to the steward.’ They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from – only the servants who had drawn the water knew – the steward called the bridegroom and said, ‘People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink, but you have kept the best wine till now.’

This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Option 8

#### Gospel Acclamation

1 Jn 4:16

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Anyone who lives in love  
lives in God,  
and God lives in him.  
Alleluia!

Priest: The Lord be with you.

**People: And with your spirit.**

Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 15:9-12

*Remain in my love.*

Jesus said to his disciples:  
‘As the Father has loved me,  
so I have loved you.  
Remain in my love.  
If you keep my commandments  
you will remain in my love,  
just as I have kept my Father’s commandments  
and remain in his love.  
I have told you this  
so that my own joy may be in you  
and your joy be complete.  
This is my commandment:  
love one another,  
as I have loved you.’

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.  
**People: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Option 9

#### Gospel Acclamation

1 Jn 4:8.11

Alleluia, alleluia!  
God is love;  
let us love one another  
as God has loved us.  
Alleluia!

Priest: The Lord be with you.  
**People: And with your spirit.**  
Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 15:12-16  
*What I command you is to love one another.*

Jesus said to his disciples:  
‘This is my commandment:  
love one another,  
as I have loved you.  
A man can have no greater love  
than to lay down his life for his friends.  
You are my friends,  
if you do what I command you.  
I shall not call you servants any more,  
because a servant does not know  
his master’s business;  
I call you friends,  
because I have made known to you  
everything I have learnt from my Father.  
You did not choose me,  
no, I chose you;  
and I commissioned you  
to go out and to bear fruit,  
fruit that will last;  
and then the Father will give you  
anything you ask him in my name.’

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

## EXAMPLES OF THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

### Prayers of the Faithful

*We pray for **N and N** as they begin their married life together. May their home be full of joy and laughter, may God give them good health and may they always find happiness in each other.*

*Lord hear us.*

***Lord graciously hear us.***

*We pray for all here present that God may give you peace in your hearts for today, hope in your hearts for tomorrow and love in your hearts forever.*

*Lord hear us.*

***Lord graciously hear us.***

*We pray for the private intentions of everyone gathered here today. May God grant your prayers.*

*Lord hear us*

***Lord graciously hear us.***

*We remember the smiles and laughter of those who have gone before us, who would have loved to share in the joy and happiness of this day. We thank God for the happy memories they have left with us. May God one day unite us again.*

*Lord hear us.*

***Lord graciously hear us.***