

Sample Ceremonies
Book 1.



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SAMPLE ONE

Introduction

To begin, on behalf of Amanda and Craig, I would like to welcome you all to this beautiful location this morning.

My name is Adrian DOWNEY, I am a Marriage Celebrant duly authorised to solemnise this marriage in accordance with the laws of Australia.

We are all here today to celebrate with Amanda and Craig a very important moment in their lives. They started out as friends and have over time learned to know and love each other and have now decided to spend the rest of their lives together, as husband and wife.

In society today, marriage has become a less obvious choice for two people in love. "It's just a piece of paper" people say. And in a few minutes I will ask Amanda and Craig to sign "a piece of paper" as evidence of their marriage here today.

But by the time they sign "the piece of paper" in their hearts and in ours, they will already be married.

Because it is not the scribble on a piece of paper that seals their marriage. It is the courage and commitment it takes to stand up in front of their friends and family, people they love and respect, and make a promise that will last the rest of their lives. It's a pretty big call.

So, family and friends, don't think you are here today as innocent bystanders, because you're not. You are here, today, to participate. You are going to perform a role far more important than any piece of paper. You are here today to witness Amanda and Craig make their promise of love, a potential that will take a life time to fulfil.

There are no guarantees in marriage. Marriage is a work of love. It calls for two people to remain individual while building around themselves a world that they call their own.

Marriage encompasses all of life's most important relationships. A husband and wife are each others; best friend, excitement, calming influence, critic, teacher, lover and listener.

A few thoughts to remember; always speak the truth and listen attentively, inspire each other, say "I love you" often and laugh a lot too, even when you're angry, and remember you are each other's best friend.

Reading by Dora

I love you so many ways
In so many ways....I love you.
You may never think about
what a special person you are,
or all the many ways you're loved,
but I know how I feel
when I think about you,
when I look at you,
and when I hold you.
I always want you near me,
with the happiness we find together in love.....

Parents Endorsement

Amanda and Craig are happy that their parents are here to witness this pledge of their commitment to one another. They ask that their parents endorse this marriage and that they help uphold the ideals Amanda and Craig are expressing today. So I now ask of the parents: Amanda's parents Tracey and Al and Craig's parents Helen and Derrick. Do you offer Amanda and Craig your love and support for their future life together?
Parents: We Do

Giving Away

Ladies and Gentlemen, Amanda and Craig have asked that you all be part of their special day by becoming involved in their ceremony. They have requested that you give them to each other in marriage, that you, collectively, give them away. With this in mind, I now ask all of you to please say "We do" if you bring Amanda and Craig to be married to each other.

Guests: We Do

Monitum

Before I join you, Craig John Elsley and you Amanda Anne Beithie, in marriage, **I am required to state that I am duly authorised by Law to solemnize marriage according to Law. Before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of these witnesses, I am to remind you of the solemn & binding nature of the relationship into which you are now about to enter, Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of two people to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life** and entered into with the desire, hope and firm intention that it will last.

Asking

Will you Craig take Amanda to be your Wife, to share your life with her, and do you pledge that you will love, honour and care for her, with tenderness and affection, through all the varying experiences of your life?

Craig: I will.

Will you Amanda take Craig to be your Husband, to share your life with him, and do you pledge that you will love, honour and care for him, with tenderness and affection, through all the varying experiences of your life?

Amanda: I will.

Vows

Craig please repeat after me.

I call upon the persons here present to witness that I, Craig, take you, Amanda to be my lawful wedded wife (or spouse), my lover and my friend,
the one I will live with,
laugh and dream with.
A life, to be lived with love,
honesty and trust,
to communicate fully,
to care for you and to share all I can,
so that we may grow together and as individuals.
This is my promise for our life together.

Amanda please repeat after me.

I call upon the persons here present to witness that I, Amanda, take you, Craig to be my lawful wedded husband (or spouse), my lover and my friend,
the one I will live with,
laugh and dream with.
A life, to be lived with love,
honesty and trust,
to communicate fully,
to care for you and to share all I can,
so that we may grow together and as individuals.
This is my promise for our life together.

Rings

The exchange of rings has, for a very long time, been a traditional part of the Marriage Ceremony. But the rings also have a practical purpose. They are a daily physical reminder of the vows you have just made to each other.

Amanda, please take Craig's hand and repeat after me:

Craig, like the circle of love that protects us, may this ring symbolise our love for eternity.

Craig, please take Amanda's hand and repeat after me:

Amanda, like the circle of love that protects us, may this ring symbolise our love for eternity.

Reading by John

On Friendship

I love you, not only for what you are, but what I am, when I am with you.

I love you not only for what you have made of yourself, but what you make of me.

I love you for the part of me that you bring out, the part that no one else has looked far enough to find.

I love you for ignoring the possibilities of the fool in me, and for laying hold of the possibilities of good in me.

You do it without a touch, without a sign.

You do it by being yourself.

Declaration of marriage

Amanda and Craig, now that you have made your promises to share your lives together in accordance with your vows, it is with great pleasure, I now pronounce you husband and wife / partner.

You may kiss the bride / partner.

I would now like to ask Amanda, Craig and their witnesses, Giles and Ange to join me as we sign the register. While we are signing the register Norm would like to read a poem for us.

Poem read by Norm

Dr Seuss

Congratulations!
Today is your day.
You're off to Great Places!
You're off and away!

You have brains in your head.
You have feet in your shoes.
You can steer yourself
Any direction you choose.

You're on your own
And you know what you know.
And YOU are the guys
who'll decide where to go.
You'll be on your way up!
You'll be seeing great sights!
You'll join the high fliers
Who soar to high heights.
You won't lag behind,
because you'll have the speed.
You'll pass the whole gang
and you'll soon take the lead.
Wherever you fly,
you'll be best of the best.
Wherever you go,
you will top all the rest.

Except when you don't
Because, sometimes, you won't
I'm sorry to say
But, sadly, it's true
That Bang-ups
And Hang-ups
Can happen to you

You can get all hung up
In a prickly perch.
And your gang will fly on
You'll be left in a Lurch.

You'll get mixed up, of course,
As you know
You'll get mixed up with many
strange things as you go.

So be sure when you step
Step with care and great tact
And remember, that Life's
A Great Balancing Act.
Just never forget to be
dexterous and deft.
And never mix up your right foot
with your left.

And will you succeed?
Yes! You will, indeed!
99.8 and $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent
guaranteed)

So.....
Be your name Buxbaum or Bixby
or Bray
Or Mordecai Warner Van Allen O'
Shea
You're off to Great Places!
Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting,
So....Get on your way!

(Signing of the Marriage Register)

Please join me in congratulating and welcoming, for the first time, as husband and wife / partner Amanda and Craig Elsley.

SAMPLE TWO

Introduction

On behalf of Nicole and Keith I would like to welcome you to this very special occasion - the celebration of their wedding.

My name is Adrian DOWNEY, I'm a marriage celebrant, duly authorised to solemnise the wedding here this evening in accordance with the law of Australia.

Nicole and Keith have chosen us to be with them on their special day. And we are here to offer our support for this marriage and to wish them every happiness for their lives together.

They are delighted that so many of you have travelled great distances to be with them and hope that this evening is one of happiness, celebration and above all fun.

Nicole and Keith, believe that marriage is the supreme sharing experience and an adventure in the most intimate of human relationships.

They have chosen to take this step after a short period of time as a statement of confidence in their love and commitment towards each other.

Their belief in the power of the family unit, their shared values and their commitment to maintain their individuality will carry them through the inevitable challenges that life will bring.

They envisage a strong, happy, adventurous and loving union. Through their marriage they hope to maintain above all mutual respect and support as each other's best friend

Reading by Tom Cruise

"Walk With Me"

By Munda

Walk with me, the path of life,
to explore every bend of the road
Enjoy with me the beauty of life,
along its wonderful way

Find comfort with me, in each other's arms,
when grief crosses our path
Find strength with me, in each other's strength,
when despair lies in wait

Laugh with me, a single true laugh,
to enlighten another's distress
Cry with me, a single true tear,
to understand true happiness

Cherish with me, the wonders of life,
as they need to be preserved
Rejoice with me, in the mysteries,
of what is yet to be

Find peace with me, in each other's souls,
when the world has gone insane
Find love with me, in each other's hearts,
until this life has been fulfilled

And when the path comes to an end
I hope we can say from within
We've known the beauty of true love,
our love came from within

Giving Away

Who gives Nicole to be married to Keith?
Anthony: I do

The Asking

Keith, will you take Nicole to be your wife. Will you strive to communicate with each other, inspire each other, say "I love you" often and laugh a lot too, even when you are angry and remember that you are each other's best friend.

Keith: I will

Nicole, will you take Keith to be your husband. Will you strive to communicate with each other, inspire each other, say "I love you" often and laugh a lot too, even when you are angry and remember that you are each other's best friend.

Nicole: I will

Monitum

Before I join you Nicole Sarah Kidman and you Keith DustyUrban in marriage, I am required to state that I am duly authorised by Law to solemnize marriage according to Law. Before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of these witnesses, I am to remind you of the solemn & binding nature of the relationship into which you are now about to enter, Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of two people to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life and entered into with the desire, hope and firm intention that it will last.

Vows

I would now like to ask you each to make your vows.

Keith: **I call upon the persons here present to witness that I Keith take you Nicole to be my lawful wedded wife (or spouse).....**

Nicole Sarah, I now join my life with you as I, Keith Dusty take you as my wife. All that I am I give to you and all that I have I share with you. What ever the future holds I will love and stand by you throughout our lives together. This is my solemn vow.

Nicole: **I call upon the persons here present to witness that I Nicole take you Keith to be my lawful wedded husband (or spouse).....**

Keith Dusty, I now join my life with you as I, Nicole Sarah, take you as my husband. All that I am I give to you and all that I have I share with you. What ever the future holds I will love and stand by you throughout our lives together. This is my solemn vow.

Declaration

Nicole and Keith, before these witness, your family and friends, you have promised to live your lives together in accordance with your vows.

And so now, with great pleasure I pronounce you, husband and wife / partner.

"You may kiss the bride / partner."

(signing of the Register).

SAMPLE THREE

Introduction

To begin, on behalf of Katie and Tom, I would like to welcome you all here today. My name is Adrian DOWNEY and I am a Marriage Celebrant, duly authorised to solemnise the marriage here, this afternoon, in accordance with the laws of Australia.

We are all here today for a very special occasion – Katie and Tom’s wedding. Over the years they have learned to know and love each other and have now, finally decided to join their lives together, a life as husband and wife.

Katie and Tom are delighted that many of you have made the effort and travelled from great distances to be here today to share with them, a most important moment in their lives.

Marriage is a commitment to life – to the best that two people can find and bring out in each other. It offers opportunities, sharing and growth, no other relationship can equal. A physical and emotional joining that is promised for a lifetime.

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. And so it’s lucky that Marriage understands and forgives the mistakes love is unable to avoid.

Marriage also encourages new experiences and new ways of expressing love through the seasons of life and encourages new experiences that that you may not dare try on your own.

When two people pledge to love and care for each other in marriage, they create a spirit unique to themselves, which binds them closer than any spoken or written words.

Marriage is a promise, a potential made in the hearts of two people in love, which takes a lifetime to fulfil.

(

The ring bearer holds up the wedding rings – so I can explain) These wedding rings represent the never-ending cycles of giving and receiving, and the birth, death and rebirth of life and love. Please pass them around. Let your hands and heart hold them for a moment and let them come back to Katie and Tom full of your warmth.

Reading - by Mimi

Katie and Tom, you share today the joy of a deep commitment and a sacred trust. You have given each other the most precious gift of love. Treasure it, nurture it, and encourage it with all the honesty you used in creating it. You are sharing something rare and beautiful.

Always speak the truth and listen attentively, so that you may understand each others thoughts and intentions. Inspire each other by sharing your accomplishments. Say 'I love you' often to retain the warmth between you. Laugh a lot too, even when you're angry, and remember you are each other's best friend.

Stand together and for each other always, be content in mind and spirit and make each day a blessing and fulfilment of your dreams.

Monitum

Before I join you, Tom Dick Cruise and you Katie Sarah Homes in marriage, **I am required to state that I am duly authorised by Law to solemnize marriage according to Law. Before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of these witnesses, I am to remind you of the solemn & binding nature of the relationship into which you are now about to enter, Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of two people to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life** and entered into with the desire, hope and firm intention that it will last.

Asking

Do you Tom take Katie to be your lawful wife, to share your life with her, and do you pledge that you will love, honour and care for her, with tenderness and affection, through all the varying experiences of your life?

Tom: I do

Do you Katie take Tom to be your lawful husband, to share your life with him, and do you pledge that you will love, honour and care for him, with tenderness and affection, through all the varying experiences of your life?

Katie: I do

Vows

Tom, please repeat after me.

I call upon the persons here present to witness that I, Tom Dick, take you Katie Sarah, to be my lawful wedded wife (or spouse),

my lover and my best friend,
the one I will live with, laugh, and dream with.
I promise to love and respect you,
throughout our lives together.

Katie, please repeat after me.

**I call upon the persons here present to witness that
I, Katie Sarah, take you Tom Dick, to be my lawful wedded husband (or
spouse),**

my lover and my best friend,
the one I will live with, laugh, and dream with.
I promise to love and respect you,
throughout our lives together.

Ring Ceremony

Traditionally, the circle of a ring symbolizes eternity. As you give these rings to each other, our wish is that your love will be as eternal and everlasting as these rings. In the years to come, they will remind you of the overwhelming joy of this special occasion. May you always be as happy together as you are here today.

Tom please take Katie's hand and repeat after me

With this ring, I give you my heart, my love and my credit card, and my promise, of love, trust and pride that you are my wife.

Katie please repeat after me

With this ring, I give you my heart, my love and I accept your credit card, and my promise, of love, trust and pride that you are my husband.

Reading – by Mimi

This is why I love you

For the kindness in your eyes
and the warmth in your voice
for the honesty of your words
and the silence in your smile
for the ways in which we're similar
and those in which we're worlds apart

I love you
for the openness of your understanding
and the acceptance of your heart
for the tenderness of your touch
and the strength of your commitment

for your sense of humour
and your seriousness of purpose
for a thousand small reasons
and one most important of all -
simply because you are you.

Declaration of marriage

Katie and Tom, you have now promised to share your lives together in accordance with your vows.

So it is with great pleasure I now pronounce you husband and wife.

You may now kiss the bride / partner.

I would now like to ask Katie, Tom and their witnesses, Gregory Keeley and Martine Carrol to join me as we sign the register.
(Signing of the register)

Please join me and congratulating for the first time as husband and wife / partners,

Mr and Mrs Cruise.

SAMPLE FOUR

Introduction

We are here today to share a most important moment in Paddy and Patricia's life. Having become friends and then learned to know and love each other, Paddy and Patricia have now decided they wish to join their lives together in marriage, a life as husband and wife.

My name is Adrian DOWNEY, I'm a Marriage Celebrant authorised to solemnise the marriage here this afternoon in accordance with the laws of Australia.

Paddy and Patricia, you share today the joy of a deep commitment and a sacred trust. You have given each other the most precious gift of love. Treasure it, nurture it, and encourage it with all the honesty you used in creating it. You are sharing something rare and beautiful.

Always speak the truth and listen attentively, so that you may understand each other's thoughts and intentions. Inspire each other by sharing your accomplishments. Say "I love you" often to retain the warmth between you.

Laugh a lot too, even when you're angry, and remember you are each other's best friend.

Stand together and for each other always, be content in mind and spirit and make each day a blessing and fulfilment of your dreams

Forever Friendship

Sometimes in life, you find a special person,
Someone who changes your life by being a part of it.

Someone who convinces you
that there is an unlocked door,
just waiting for you to open it.

This is forever friendship.

When you're down, and the world seems dark and empty,
Your forever friend lifts you up in spirit, and makes that
dark and empty world - Suddenly seem bright and full.

Your forever friend gets you through the hard times,
the sad times and the confused times.

If you turn and walk away, your forever friend follows,
If you lose your way, your forever friend guides
you and cheers you on.

Your forever friend holds your hand and tells you that everything is going to be okay.

And when you find such a friend, you feel happy and complete, because you need not worry.

You have a forever friend for life, and Forever, has no end.

Monitum of Marriage

Before you are joined in marriage, **I am required to state that I am duly authorised by Law to solemnize marriage according to Law. Before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of these witnesses, I am to remind you of the solemn & binding nature of the relationship into which you are now about to enter, Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of two people to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life** and entered into with the desire, hope and firm intention that it will last.

Asking

Will you take Patricia to be your wife? Will you make the daily effort to relate to her and listen to her. Will you be gracious and generous in the giving yourself? Will you work for what is best for her for the rest of your life?

Paddy: I will.

Will you take Paddy to be your husband? Will you make the daily effort to relate to him and listen to him. Will you be gracious and generous in the giving yourself? Will you work for what is best for him for the rest of your life?

Patricia: I will.

Vows

Paddy please repeat after me;

I call upon the persons here present to witness that I , Patrick Mick O’Paddy take you Patricia O’Shea, to be my lawful wedded wife (or spouse), and life partner, I pledge to share my life openly with you, to speak the truth to you in love, I promise to honour you and tenderly care for you, to cherish and encourage your own fulfilment as an individual for the rest of my life.

Patricia please repeat after me;

I call upon the persons here present to witness that I , Patricia O’Shea take you Patrick Mick O’Paddy, to be my lawful wedded husband (or spouse), and life partner, I pledge to share my life openly with you, to speak the truth to you in love, I promise to honour you and tenderly care for you, to cherish and encourage your own fulfilment as an individual for the rest of my life.

The Ring Ceremony

The perfect circle of a ring symbolises eternity. As you give these rings to each other, our wish is that your love will be as eternal and everlasting as these rings. In the years to come, they will remind you of the overwhelming joy of this special occasion. May you always be as happy together as you are today.

Paddy please take Patricia’s hand and repeat after me
With this ring, I give you my love for eternity.

Patricia please take Paddy’s hand and repeat after me
With this ring, I give you my love for eternity.

DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE

Patricia and Paddy, you have now promised to share your lives together in accordance with your vows. So it is with great pleasure I now pronounce you, husband and wife / partner.

You may now kiss the bride....I would now like to ask Patricia and Paddy and their witnesses, Paul Merry and Renee Dawson to join me as we sign the register.
(Signing of the register)

Please join me in congratulating and welcome for the first time as husband and wife /partner,
Paddy and Patricia O’Paddy

SAMPLE FIVE

Introduction

Patti and Robert are delighted that you could join them on their wedding day. To them, this marriage is confirmation of what they themselves already know – that they love each other and want to be together for the rest of their lives.

My name is Adrian DOWNEY, I’m a Marriage Celebrant authorised to solemnise the marriage here this afternoon in accordance with the laws of Australia.

Though the opportunity was there for them to continue to live together as a defacto couple, they have chosen to take this step of marriage so as to say to the world “We are together, we are a team and we have something very special we would like to celebrate”.

They want their wedding day to be a memorable one, full of fun and laughter – just like their life together has been so far.

There are no guarantees in a marriage. Marriage is work of love. It calls for two people to share their vision of life with tolerance, patience, understanding and love. For two people to remain individual whilst building around themselves a world which they call they call their own. A world which is full of their hopes, their dreams, their love and their happiness, a world in which they are equally strong as they support and love one another through the inevitable challenges that life will present them with.

Marriage is not an easy commitment, but we can be sure that Patti and Robert have already built the foundations for such a wonderful relationship to continue to grow, as the years strengthen their love and life together. We, who are witnesses to this marriage between Patti and Robert, sincerely wish them all happiness and prosperity in their lives together.

Reading By Graham Kennedy

A Good Wedding Cake Author Unknown

4kg of love.
1kg butter of youth.
½kg of good looks.
1kg sweet temper.
4Tsp of blindness of faults.
2Tsp of self forgetfulness.
1kg of pounded wit.
1kg of good humour.
2 teaspoons of sweet argument.
1 litre of rippling laughter.
1 wine glass of common sense.
1kg modesty.

Put the love, good looks and sweet temper into a well furnished house. Beat the butter of youth to a cream, and mix well together with the blindness of faults. Stir the pounded wit and good humour into the sweet argument, then add the rippling laughter and common sense. Work the whole together until everything is well mixed, and bake gently for ever.

Monitum

Before I join you Robert Newton and you Paddi McGrath in marriage, **I am required to state that I am duly authorised by Law to solemnize marriage according to Law. Before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of these witnesses, I am to remind you of the solemn & binding nature of the relationship into which you are now about to enter.**

Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of two people to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life and entered into with the desire, hope and firm intention that it will last.

Vows

Robert, please repeat after me.

I call upon the persons present to witness that I, Robert take you Patti to be my lawful wedded wife (or spouse), my lover and my friend. I declare my love for you. I promise to love, cherish and respect you throughout our life together.

Pattie, please repeat after me.

I call upon the persons present to witness that I Patti take you Robert to be my lawful wedded husband (or spouse), my lover and my friend. I declare my love for you. I promise to love, cherish and respect you throughout our life together.

Ring Ceremony

Traditionally, the circle of a ring symbolizes eternity but they also have a practical purpose, they will remind you every day of the vows you have made on this joyous occasion.

Robert please take Patti's hand and repeat after me
With this ring, I thee wed, wear it as a symbol of all that we share.

Patti please take Robert's hand and repeat after me
With this ring, I thee wed, wear it as a symbol of all that we share.

Reading by Don Lane

Instructions for Life – Dali Lama

1. Take into account that great love and great achievements involve great risk.
2. When you lose, don't lose the lesson.
3. Follow the three Rs:
Respect for self
Respect for others and
Responsibility for all your actions.
4. Remember that not getting what you want is sometimes a wonderful stroke of luck.
5. Learn the rules so you know how to break them properly.
6. Don't let a little dispute injure a great friendship.
7. When you realise you've made a mistake, take immediate steps to correct it.
8. Spend some time alone every day.
9. Open your arms to change, but don't let go of your values.
10. Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.

11. Live a good, honorable life. Then when you get older and think back, you'll be able to enjoy it a second time.
12. A loving atmosphere in your home is the foundation for your life.
13. In disagreements with loved ones, deal only with the current situation. Don't bring up the past.
14. Share your knowledge. It's a way to achieve immortality.
15. Be gentle with the earth.
16. Once a year, go someplace you've never been before.
17. Remember that the best relationship is one in which your love for each other exceeds your need for each other.
18. Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it.
19. Approach love and cooking with reckless abandon.

Declaration of Marriage

Patti and Robert, you have now promised to share your lives together in accordance with your vows.

So it is with great pleasure I now pronounce you husband and wife / partner.
You may now kiss your bride / partner.

I would now like to ask Rebecca, Robert and their witnesses, Clint and Kylie to join me as we sign the register. (Signing of the register)

Please join me and congratulating for the first time as husband and wife / partner,
Mr and Mrs Trigg

Sample Ceremony Six – Sharon and Timothy

Example of a wedding ceremony incorporating the pieces from New Words for Weddings Volume 1. This ceremony is reasonably brief and traditional.

Please silence mobile phones and be seated (if applicable)

Introduction:

Celebrant:

Good afternoon everyone. My name is Adrian Downey and I welcome you all here today to witness the joining of Sharon and Timothy in marriage.

Sharon and Timothy, you care deeply for one another and you see this wedding as the opportunity to declare before us all your love, and your intention to live together as husband and wife.

The joy of Sharon and Timothy's love touches us all, and we are privileged to be here today to celebrate their happiness.

Sharon and Timothy see this ceremony today as a stronger commitment to their relationship. They have called you together, their family and friends, to make this commitment clear to you and to call on your acknowledgement and support.

This ceremony gives public recognition to their love.

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 live life in ways you would never dare to risk on your own.

Love is an experience that we share with all people throughout the world. Yet to everyone who falls in love it is the most unique and precious thing in the world.

Sharon and Timothy, you have chosen words written by Melanie James, called Proclamation, to help express the way you feel today as you commence your married life together.

They are marrying each other today
Because they truly want to live
The words of this marriage ceremony.
They take each other for all time,
They will care and nurture each other;
Hold each other

Through good times and bad.

They will show through the way

They live together,

That they honour and cherish each other.

They want their lives to proclaim always

The love they speak before us today.

Monitum

Before we proceed further I am obliged to inform you that I am duly authorised by law to conduct marriages according to the law.

Before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of these witnesses, I am obliged to remind you of the solemn and binding nature of the relationship into which you are about to enter.

Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of two people to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.

Giving away of the bride:

A noted writer and marriage celebrant, Dally Messenger, said that one of the most understated but deepest relationships in human life is that between a caring father and a loving daughter.

He noted that one of the rare occasions that this relationship is acknowledged is at a wedding ceremony.

Peter, today, represents his family, but in this special gesture, he symbolises his own love for his daughter. So it is with great pleasure that that I now ask, who gives this woman to be married to this man?

Peter: I do.

Peter places Sharon's hand in Timothy's hand and then returns to the other guests.

The Asking

Sharon and Timothy before we proceed, I ask you whether you are both here today giving yourself freely to one another in marriage.

Sharon and Timothy: *We are.*

Celebrant to Timothy:

Timothy, do you take Sharon to be your lawful wedded wife? Do you promise to love her, comfort her, honour and keep her, in sickness and in health, and, forsaking all others, keep only unto her, so long as you both shall live?

Timothy: I do

Celebrant to Sharon:

Sharon, do you take Timothy to be your lawful wedded husband? Do you promise to love him, comfort him, honour and keep him, in sickness and in health, and, forsaking all others, keep only unto him, so long as you both shall live?

Sharon: I do

Vows

Celebrant:

I ask now that you hold hands as you take your vows.

Timothy, please repeat after me:

I call upon the persons here present to witness that I Timothy, take you, Sharon, to be my lawful wedded wife (or spouse), 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 for as long as we both shall live.

(name of bride), please repeat after me:

I call upon the persons here present to witness that I Sharon, take you, Timothy, to be my lawful wedded husband (or spouse), 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 for as long as we both shall live.

Symbols of Unity – The Rings

Sharon and Timothy, you have exchanged vows declaring your commitment as husband and wife, I now ask you to exchange the wedding rings that are a symbol of your love and unity.

(Sharon and Timothy stay in the same position, the celebrant will take the bride's ring from the best man and give it to the groom, who holds it over the tip of the bride's ring finger on the left hand, and repeats the words, phrase by phrase, after the celebrant.

The groom then slides the ring onto the bride's finger.
This is then repeated by the bride for the groom's ring.

Timothy:

Sharon, with this ring I wed you. Take it and wear it as a sign of my love and faithfulness.

Sharon:

Timothy, with this ring I wed you. Take it and wear it as a sign of my love and faithfulness.

Celebrant:

"These rings tell the world that you have publicly declared your love for each other.

These rings hold in them forever the happiness and joy felt by each of you today. These rings will stay with you always and symbolise your unity.

These rings honour you and show your pride in your commitment to this marriage."

service

(words by Melanie James acknowledged in

booklet but not during the service)

Celebrant:

I would now like to read a poem called, Vessel of Love:

From here you are one, but two;
Like decanted wine you've poured
Your souls into one vessel -
Tall and generous to hold this great love;
Blended and enhanced by the union;
Still able to be poured into separate glasses
When you need to fly solo;

But safe in knowing you are
Part of this vast vessel of love.

And so Timothy and Sharon have declared before us today their commitment to each other.

They have made special promises and have symbolised their union with the exchanging of rings.

By the power vested in me as an authorised marriage celebrant, I now declare Timothy and Sharon to be husband and wife / partner.

Timothy, you may now kiss the bride / partner.

Signing of the register - The register and marriage certificate are signed. Bride signs, then groom, then bridesmaid, then best man, then celebrant. The celebrant will then present the couple with their marriage certificate.

Declaration

Ladies and Gentleman, please congratulate the bride and groom / partner, Mr and Mrs

This concludes the ceremony.

Sample Ceremony Seven Wedding Ceremony

(Bridal party enters – music to be played)

Celebrant –

Good afternoon everyone. My name is Adrian Downey and I welcome you all here this afternoon, as we unite Andrew and Jessica in marriage and celebrate their love and commitment to each other and their future together.

Andrew and Jessica, you care very deeply for each other and see this ceremony as the opportunity to declare before us all your love for one another and your intention to live together as husband and wife.

Andrew and Jessica would like to thank you, their closest family and friends who are here to share this beautiful day with them and witness this ceremony to show their strong commitment to each other.

Jessica entered the garden this afternoon to the music of Nick Cave, and one of the most beautiful songs he has ever written, Into My Arms.

I would like to share with you all some of the words from that song that capture some of the feelings of love between Andrew and Jessica:

I don't believe in the existence of angels,
But looking at you I wonder if that's true,
But if I did I would summon them together,
And ask them to watch over you,
To each burn a candle for you,
To make bright and clear your path.
I believe in Love
And I know that you do too.
I believe in some kind of path
That we can walk down, me and you.
So keep that candle burning
And make her journey bright and pure,
That she will keep returning
Always and evermore...
Into my arms.

Celebrant –

Who brings Jessica to be married to Andrew?
"I Do'.....?"

(family member), you bring Jessica to stand beside Andrew as a sign of the family's acceptance of this marriage. Please place her hand into the hand of her future husband

Before we proceed further, I am obliged to advise you that as a marriage celebrant I am duly authorised to conduct marriages according to the law.

Before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of these witnesses, I am obliged to remind you of the solemn and binding nature of the relationship into which you are about to enter.

Marriage, according to law in Australia is the union of two people to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.

Marriage for life (a poem by Melanie James)

Marriage is a commitment for life,
and in many ways is a commitment to life.
It offers opportunities for sharing
and knowing one another
that no other relationship can equal.

Sometimes, as we travel through this life,
another person chooses to walk our path.
The path may not always be easily travelled,

Adrian Downey NSW Celebrant

but as two instead of one, the load is shared
and each can light the way for the other.

Celebrant to Andrew –

Andrew, do you take Jessica to be your wife? Do you promise to love her, comfort her, honour and keep her, in sickness and in health, and, forsaking all others, keep only unto her, so long as you both shall live?

Andrew –
I do

Celebrant to Jessica -

Jessica, do you take Andrew to be your husband? Do you promise to love him, comfort him, honour and keep him, in sickness and in health, and, forsaking all others, keep only unto him, so long as you both shall live?

Jessica –
I do

Celebrant –

I ask now that you face each other and hold hands as you take your vows.

Andrew, repeat after me –

I call upon the persons here present to witness that I, Andrew, take you Jessica to be my lawful wedded wife (or spouse), 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 for as long as we both shall live.

Jessica, repeat after me -

I call upon the persons here present to witness that I, Jessica, take you Andrew to be my lawful wedded husband (or spouse), 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 for as long as we both shall live.

Celebrant –

Andrew and Jessica, you have exchanged vows declaring your commitment as husband and wife and I now ask you to exchange a wedding ring that is a symbol of this love and unity.

Celebrant - May I please have the rings

Andrew – (Please place Jessica’s ring on her finger and repeat after me...)

Jessica, take this ring and wear it as a sign of our love, faithfulness and all that we share together.

Jessica – (Please place Andrew’s ring on his finger and repeat after me...)

Andrew, take this ring and wear it as a sign of our love, faithfulness and all that we share together.

Celebrant:

These rings tell the world that you have publicly declared your love for each other. They hold in them forever the happiness and joy felt by each of you today. These rings will stay with you always and symbolise your unity. They honour you and show your pride in your commitment to this marriage.

Celebrant:

To close I now invite Nicola to deliver the final reading on behalf of Jessica and Andrew:

I Love You,
Not only for what you are,
but for what I am when I am with you,
not only for what you have made of yourself,
but for what you are making of me.
I love you for the part of me that you bring out.
I love you for putting your hand into my overflowing heart
and passing over all the foolish, weak things that you can't help,
dimly seeing there, and for drawing out into the light all the
beautiful belongings that no one else had looked quite far enough to find.
I love you because you are helping me to make of the dreams of my life
not a thought but a reality,
I love you and I love that I am sharing the rest of my life with you.

Celebrant –

This afternoon Andrew and Jessica have declared their commitment and love for each other before us and have made a promise to each other for life.

And so duly authorised by the Commonwealth of Australia, It is my privilege and honour to now declare Andrew and Jessica to be husband and wife / partner.

Andrew, you may now kiss your bride / partner.

Signing of the register

Celebrant –

I now invite the Bride, Groom and witnesses to sign the register.
(music to be played)

Ladies and Gentlemen. Thank you for your presence here on this special afternoon
and would you please congratulate the bride and groom / partner, Mr and
Mrs

(Music to be played)

