

A CELEBRATION OF

# Unity and Commitment

For anyone whose weddings have  
been impacted by the pandemic.

*"When everything seemed lost that afternoon in the Garden of Eden, God the Father put a new heart into that young couple and told them that everything was not lost." Pope Francis*

**11am Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2021**  
**St Brigid's Church, Cardiff**

**Lead by Canon Matthew Jones**  
**Assisted by Deacon Christian Mahoney**

The Archdiocese of Cardiff's Family Life Commission would like to thank Canon Matthew Jones, Deacon Christian Mahoney and members of St Brigid's parish community for their help and support in making this celebration possible.

# Welcome

Canon Matthew

## OPENING PRAYER:

Lord, we all need you with us, but we ask especially at this time,  
that you give to every couple your blessing.

Times have been hard for all but we pray particularly those who have prepared for  
marriage but have had to postpone their Wedding Day plans.  
Help our couples to use this special time today,  
to grow in mutual respect and love for one another.

Help them to prepare with love and joy for their special day.

May they use this time to

We pray, that soon, we will all rejoice in their union, along with family and friends  
gathered to support them, as they start their new life together.

We ask this through Our Lord, Jesus Christ

**Amen**





## THE UNITY CANDLE:

You will see on the altar a large candle with two smaller ones at the side. The two smaller candles represent your separate lives so far, as well as your separate families and separate sets of friends. The centre candle represents how your two lives will be joined as one, and so too your families and friends.

Having lit these two smaller candles, we will use them to light the larger candle.

We hope that now lit, this joint flame will not go out; this flame or fire represents your love for each other and your understanding of the life ahead of you.

This new flame represents a new beginning - a new life and a new family. You have taken the first step in a long journey and will need to work hard to keep the flame burning and to stay together. May it continue to grow and may your love be a light for others also.



## LITURGY OF THE WORD:

The reading is taken from St Paul's letter to the Philippians (2:1-5)

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

The Word of The Lord.

RESPONSE: **Thanks be to God**

### RESONSORIAL PSALM

(144 (145): 8-9, 10 and 15, 17-18 (R. 9a))

The Response is: **How good is the Lord to all.**

The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love.  
Compassionate to all his creatures.

RESPONSE: **How good is the Lord to all.**

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing. The eyes of all creatures look to you and you give them their food in due time.

RESPONSE: **How good is the Lord to all.**

The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, who call on him from their hearts

RESPONSE: **How good is the Lord to all.**

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

The Gospel taken from the book of John (15:9-12:)

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 loved you.'

The Gospel of The Lord.

**RESPONSE:**  
**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**



Homily

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL:

We pray for the gift of God's love, which brings peace, kindness and perseverance. Help us all to be a reflection of God's love, as we learn to cope with the disappointments and restrictions that the pandemic has placed upon us.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray for all our parish communities, that they may provide spiritual and practical support for all couples planning their new family life together.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Let us pray for all our friends, especially those who brought couples together and have helped prepare for their future wedding days. May the bonds of friendship remain strong amidst these difficult circumstances.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray for all who are sick, especially those suffering from the Covid virus, for those who are lonely and also those struggling in today's world. May they be strengthened by God's love.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

We remember those who have died and will not be with these couples to celebrate the joy and happiness of their wedding day. We thank God for the memories they have left us and may He one day unite us again.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

We ask Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ to add her prayers to ours as we say:

**Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee.**

**Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.**

**Amen**

Let us pray for our own intentions in a moment's silence.

## DEDICATION

Pope Francis, has spoken touchingly about the importance of Marriage and Family Life:

*"I prefer wrinkled families, with wounds, with scars, but that continue going forward because these wounds, these scars, these wrinkles are the fruit of fidelity in a love that was not always easy. **Love isn't easy. It isn't easy.** No. But the most beautiful thing that a man and a woman can give each other is true love, for a lifetime." (Pope Francis)*

And so, today we look to him for strength and guidance.

As a guide for our lives ahead, we use his **5 finger prayer**, which has been adapted to your situation.



- ♥ Starting with the thumb, the closest finger to you.  
Pray for your partner,  
they are the easiest person to pray for as we are closest to them. Help us to always keep them close and bring them and their needs constantly into our thoughts.
- ♥ The next finger is the index  
We pray for all those who have contributed to our relationship, our family, our friends and anyone who has supported us as we start our journey to married life. We will always need them so help them, Lord to guide us with love and sincerity.
- ♥ The middle finger is the tallest.  
May it remind us that there may be difficulties in our life ahead but we sometimes need to be the better person and be the voice of reason when life appears too difficult to cope with. We pray for the strength to direct and guide our lives in a positive and caring way.
- ♥ The fourth finger sometimes called the ring finger.  
This is the weakest finger but once we place that ring of commitment on it we can become confident and strong as we know we are no longer alone. We are now a partnership and together we can face whatever lies ahead
- ♥ And finally our smallest finger. Small but not unimportant.  
We ask Lord that things that may seem small in our relationship are not thought unimportant. May we always see that everyone and everything is important if it touches our lives. May we always be aware of the needs of our partner and never dismiss them as small or unimportant.



## Final Prayer

We give you praise, O Lord, who in your gentle wisdom call and prepare your children to love each other. Graciously strengthen their hearts, we pray, so that, by keeping faith and pleasing you in all things, they may come happily to the Sacrament of Marriage. We pray that they may grow in mutual respect and may love each other with true charity.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Blessing

*May the God of love and peace dwell within you,  
direct your steps, and strengthen your hearts in his love.*

## Prayer of Preparation for Marriage

Lord, your love for us is everlasting and unconditional.  
As we prepare for the union that will bring us together as one,  
we ask that our marriage will be a reflection of your love for us.

Help us every day to appreciate one another.  
Let us only focus on the good in our loved one and acknowledge each other's imperfections  
without allowing them to damage our friendship.  
We pray, that we may grow in love and character together.

May we enjoy a perfect union of our hearts so that our love grows day to day.  
Enable us to make time for one another and discover the true marvel of each other's unique  
creation.

Accompany us, as we create a home filled with love, beauty and health.  
Make it a model for the world in which we live.  
We pray today, that the joy of love and marriage may help us to know your love in every  
aspect of our lives together.