

Marriage Blessing

There are two types of 'marriage blessing.' Either service is conducted by a priest, deacon, or Reader. When not led by a priest, the Grace is used in place of the Blessing.

An Order for Prayer and Dedication after a Civil Marriage

This service is for a couple who have had a civil ceremony and wish to dedicate to God their life together.

Thanksgiving for Marriage

This service is for a couple who have had a marriage service and wish to renew their marriage vows, (to celebrate an anniversary, or after a time of separation or difficulty in marriage).

Notes

Above services acknowledge the commitment a couple have made, whether their marriage was a civil ceremony or religious service. The Church recognizes a civil ceremony as a valid marriage.

As the couple are married, there are no legalities to consider, therefore:

- Banns are not required
- There is not usually an exchange of rings (although new rings can be blessed)
- There is no legal pronouncement (proclamation) of the couple being husband and wife
- There is no signing of the Marriage Register

The blessing of a marriage should not appear to be a wedding. Although a blessing can have a similar look and feel to a wedding, there are some noticeable differences:

- The couple are referred to as "husband and wife" not "bride and groom"
- There is no best man or bridesmaid
- There is no bridal procession
- There is no 'giving away' of the bride

Above services can take place in a church, during a service of Holy Communion, or outside of a church in a location of the couple's choosing, such as their home, restaurant, hotel, or even on a beach.