

## **OPENING PRAYER**

O God, show favour to our supplications and pour forth your blessing on Eleanor and Joseph, so that in the union of Marriage they may be joined together in mutual affection, in likeness of mind, and in shared holiness.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Response:** Amen.

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

(Please be seated)

### **FIRST READING**

A reading from the Book of Genesis 1:26-28,31

read by Daniel Mather

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 the 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.

**Response:** Thanks be to God.

## **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 32 (12-22)

**Response (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,  
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.)**

## **SECOND READING**

A reading from the first letter of Saint Paul to the  
Corinthians 12:31–13:8 read by Mark Little MBE

Be ambitious for the higher gifts. 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 even 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.

**Response:** Thanks be to God.

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

(Please stand)

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

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

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

### **GOSPEL**

John 15:9-12

The Lord be with you.

**Response:** And with your Spirit.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

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

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Response:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

### **HOMILY**

(Please be seated)

### **THE CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE**

(Please stand)

### **ADDRESS**

Dearly beloved, you have come together into the house of the Church, so that in the presence of the Church's minister and the community, your intention to enter into Marriage may be strengthened by the Lord with a sacred seal.

Christ abundantly blesses the love that binds you.

Through a special sacrament, he enriches and strengthens those he has already consecrated by Holy Baptism, that they may be faithful to each other for ever and assume all the responsibilities of married life.

And so, in the presence of the Church,  
I ask you to state your intentions.

## **THE QUESTIONS BEFORE THE CONSENT**

Eleanor and Joseph, have you come here to enter into Marriage without coercion, freely and wholeheartedly?

### **The bridegroom and bride each say:**

I have.

Joseph, are you resolved to take Eleanor to be your wife: to love her, comfort her, honour and protect her, and forsaking all others, to be faithful to her, as long as you both shall live?

### **The bridegroom replies:**

I am.

Eleanor, are you resolved to take Joseph to be your husband: to love him, comfort him, honour and protect him, and forsaking all others, to be faithful to him, as long as you both shall live?

### **The bride replies:**

I am.

Are you prepared to accept children lovingly from God and to bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church?

### **The bridegroom and bride each say:**

I am.

## THE CIVIL DECLARATION OF FREEDOM

I declare that I know of no legal reason why I, Joseph Lewis Christopher Mather, may not be joined in marriage to Eleanor Mary John.

I declare that I know of no legal reason why I, Eleanor Mary John, may not be joined in marriage to Joseph Lewis Christopher Mather.

## CONSENT

Since it is your intention to enter the covenant of Holy Matrimony, join your right hands and declare your consent before God and his Church.

### **The bridegroom says:**

I, Joseph Lewis Christopher Mather, take thee, Eleanor Mary John to be my wedded wife,  
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,  
till death do us part.

### **The bride says:**

I, Eleanor Mary John, take thee, Joseph Lewis Christopher Mather to be my wedded husband,  
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,  
till death do us part.

## THE RECEPTION OF CONSENT

May the Lord in his kindness strengthen the consent you have declared before the Church, and graciously bring to fulfilment his blessing within you. What God joins together, let no one put asunder.

Let us bless the Lord.

**Response:** Thanks be to God.

## THE BLESSING AND GIVING OF RINGS

May the Lord bless these rings, which you will give to each other as a sign of love and fidelity.

**Response:** Amen.

### **The husband places his wife's ring on her ring finger.**

Eleanor, receive this ring  
as a sign of my love and fidelity.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

### **The wife places her husband's ring on his ring finger.**

Joseph, receive this ring  
as a sign of my love and fidelity.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

## **sHYMN: A NEW COMMANDMENT**

(Please be seated)

A new commandment I give unto you,  
that you love one another as I have loved you,  
that you love one another as I have loved you.

By this shall all mankind know you are my disciples,  
if you have love one for another.

By this shall all mankind know you are my disciples,  
if you have love one for another.

A new commandment I give unto you:  
that you love one another as I have loved you,  
that you love one another as I have loved you.

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## **THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

Read by Christina Allcock & Mariella Mazzilli

(Please stand)

Let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.