



ORDER OF SERVICE

*A celebration of marriage between*

Hannah Frances  
Rushton

&

James Peter  
Birtwistle

Saturday 22nd July 2023 at 1pm  
St. Peter's Church, Stonyhurst, Lancashire

Thank you for coming to our wedding celebration. It means a lot to us that you are witnesses to our marriage vows and that you are sharing in this special day. Fr. Tim Curtis will lead the service and guide us throughout. Please feel free to join in wherever it says 'all' and during the hymns.

**THE WEDDING PARTY  
CELEBRANT**

Fr. Tim Curtis SJ

**PARENTS OF THE BRIDE**

Stephen and Maria  
Rushton

**PARENTS OF THE GROOM**

David and Maureen  
Birtwistle

**MAID OF HONOUR**

Lucy Rushton



**BEST MAN**

Thomas Fitzmaurice

**BRIDESMAIDS**

Jadie Renwick  
Rachel Cunliffe

**GROOMSMAN**

Robert Banister  
James Cunliffe  
Peter McHugh

**USHER**

Dominic Rushton

**WITNESSES**

Maria Rushton  
Maureen Birtwistle

**AUTHORISED PERSON**

John Thomasson

**ORGANIST**

Greg Mann

**ORGAN**

Horace

**CHOIR**

Rossendale Male  
Voice Choir

**STRING QUARTET**

Northern String

**We kindly ask that you refrain from taking photos during the ceremony and that mobile phones are placed on silent or switched off.**

**THE CEREMONY  
PRELUDE**

Music by Northern String Quartet

**ENTRY OF THE BRIDE**

Let us stand to greet the bride as she walks in with her father.

**THE WELCOME**

From Fr. Tim Curtis –  
The Lord be with you.

**All: – and also with you.**

**HYMN - Jerusalem**

*And did those feet in ancient time  
Walk upon England's mountains green?  
And was the holy Lamb of God  
On England's pleasant pastures seen?  
And did the countenance divine  
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?  
And was Jerusalem builded here  
Among those dark satanic mills?*

*Bring me my bow of burning gold!  
Bring me my arrows of desire!  
Bring me my spear! O Clouds, unfold!  
Bring me my chariot of fire!  
I will not cease from mental fight.  
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand.  
Till we have built Jerusalem  
In England's green and pleasant land.*

**OPENING PRAYERS**

(Please be seated)

Candle Ceremony – Maria and Maureen, the mothers of the Bride and Groom, will present the candles to the altar to symbolise the candles lit for their child's Sacrament of Baptism and their lives up until this point.

## **FIRST READING**

Read by Tim Birtwistle, Brother of the Groom

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

A loving partner is a safe shelter. Whoever finds one has found a rare treasure. A loving partner is something beyond price. There is no measuring their worth. A loving partner is a life-saving remedy. And those who respect their Lord find true love. For as a person is so is their loved one.

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING**

Read by Eileen Kelly, Nana of the Bride

Attributed to Fr. Pedro Arupe SJ.

Nothing is more practical than finding God; than falling in love in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you do with your evenings and how you spend your weekends. What you read, whom you know, what breaks your heart and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in love, stay in love and it will decide everything.

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

## **Gospel Acclamation**

(Please stand)

**All: Alleluia! Alleluia**

Jesus said 'love one another as I have loved you'.

**All: Alleluia!**

## **Gospel**

Read by Fr. Tim Curtis

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 10:6-9

Jesus said:

"From the beginning of creation, God made them male and female.  
For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to  
his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.

So, they are no longer two but one flesh.

Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must  
separate."

The Gospel of the Lord

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

## **Homily**

(Please be seated)

By Fr. Tim Curtis

## **HYMN - BE STILL FOR THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD**

***Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.***

***Come, bow before him now, with reverence and fear.***

***In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground.***

***Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.***

***Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;***

***he burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned.***

***How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light!***

***Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.***

***Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place,***

***he comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace.***

***No work too hard for him, in faith receive from him;***

***be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.***

## **Rite of Marriage**

Hannah and James will now declare their freedom to Marry, declare their consent, exchange marriage vows and exchange rings.

## **Completion of the Candle Ceremony**

Hannah and James will light the marriage candle from both of the individual Baptismal candles which represents their sacred union as husband and wife in the Sacrament of Marriage.

## **The Prayers of the Faithful**

Read by Rachel Cunliffe and Robert Bannister  
(Please Stand)

We pray for Hannah and James, that their life together will be filled with happiness and love. May their home be filled with laughter and may they continue to appreciate one another for who they are.

Lord, hear us

**All: Lord, graciously here us**

By this marriage, two families have been united. May both families continue to be a source of love and support through Hannah and James' life together. We pray for all those, near and far, who have supported and helped bring them to this happy day. May god give them peace in their hearts today, hope in their hearts for tomorrow and love in their hearts forever.

Lord, hear us

**All: Lord, graciously here us**

We remember the smiles and laughter of those that 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 us. May God keep them in his care and one day unite us again.

Lord, hear us

**All: Lord, graciously here us**

Let us ask Mary, the Holy Mother of God, to pray for us and with us as we say:

**All: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed are thou among 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**

## **HYMN - As I Kneel Before You**

*As I kneel before you,  
As I bow my head in prayer,  
Take this day, make it yours  
and fill me with your love.*

*Ave Maria,  
Gratia plena,  
Dominus tecum,  
Benedicta tu.*

*All I have I give you,  
Every dream and wish are yours,  
Mother of Christ,  
Mother of mine, present them to my Lord.*

*Ave Maria,  
Gratia plena,  
Dominus tecum,  
Benedicta tu.*

*As I kneel before you,  
And I see your smiling face,  
Ev'ry thought, ev'ry word  
Is lost in your embrace.*

*Ave Maria,  
Gratia plena,  
Dominus tecum,  
Benedicta tu.*

**Nuptial Blessing**  
By Fr. Tim Curtis

### **Signing of the Register**

At this point, Hannah and James, along with their witnesses,  
will go to sign the civil register.

Music by Rossendale Male Voice Choir

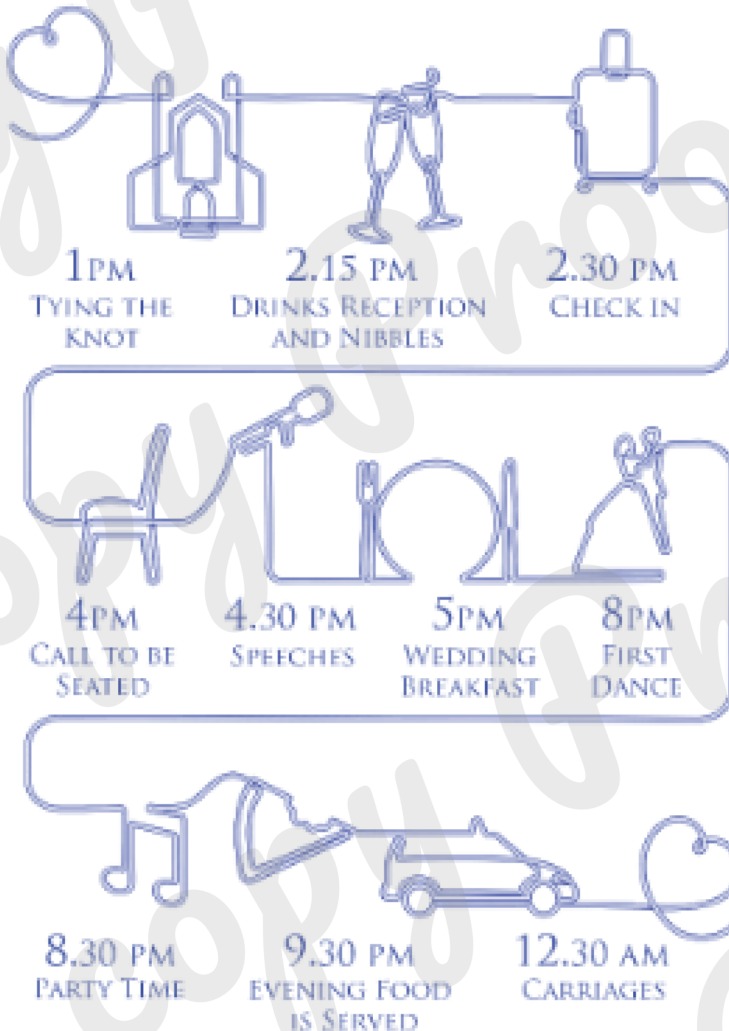
**Final Blessing**  
By Fr Tim Curtis

**Recessional**

A special thank you to the Rossendale Male Voice Choir and their tribute to Hannah's late Uncle Peter.

**We, the new 'Mr and Mrs Birtwistle', would like to thank you all for coming. Please enjoy this day and let it be but a small gift for all you have done for us.**

### Order of the Day



***"When it comes to love, the best catch of all is finding someone you can share your life with."***