



*Order of Service
for the marriage of*

Mary Owen
&
Craig Mullan

SATURDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2023
At 1.00 PM

St Werburgh's Church, Chester



PRIEST

Father Paul Shaw

FATHER OF THE BRIDE

Mike Owen

MOTHER OF THE BRIDE

Sue Owen

FATHER OF THE GROOM

Paul Mullan

MOTHER OF THE GROOM

Pam Mullan

MAID OF HONOUR

Annabel Maxfield

BRIDESMAIDS

Emily-Ruth Kraus, Simone Critchlow

PAGE BOY

Luke Owen

BEST MEN

Daniel Wrigley, Phil Edwards

CHIEF USHER

James Owen

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Anthony Owen

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO

Sister Gemma Simmonds

Please ensure mobiles are switched to silent and refrain from taking photos during the ceremony (including the bridal procession); we have two fantastic, professional photographers in the Church and would prefer all guests to be fully present to share our special moment.

BRIDAL PROCESSION

Canon in D, Pachelbel

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Father Paul

HYMN

Guide me O Thou Great Redeemer

**Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
Hold me with thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven
Feed me till I want no more;
Feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through:
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer;
Be thou still my strength and shield;
Be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side:
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.**

OPENING PRAYER

Father Paul

FIRST READING

Read by Pam Mullan

A reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

The word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God

SECOND READING

Read by David Dowden

A reading from the Song of Songs

The word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God

THIRD READING

Read by James Owen

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

The word of the Lord

R: Thanks be to God

GOSPEL

Read by Father Paul

The Wedding at Cana

HOMILY

Father Paul

HYMN

Give me Joy in my heart

**Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising
Give me joy in my heart, I pray
Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising
Keep me praising 'til the end of day**

*Sing hosanna, sing hosanna
Sing hosanna to the King of kings
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna
Sing hosanna to the King*

**Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting
Give me peace in my heart, I pray
Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting
Keep me resting 'til the end of day**

Chorus

**Give me love in my heart, keep me serving
Give me love in my heart, I pray
Give me love in my heart, keep me serving
Keep me serving 'til the end of day**

Chorus

**Give me light in my heart, keep me shining
Give me light in my heart, I pray
Give me light in my heart, keep me shining
Keep me shining 'til the end of day**

Chorus

RITE OF MARRIAGE

BLESSING AND EXCHANGING OF RINGS

BIDDING PRAYERS

Written and read by Mike and Sue Owen

Jesus tells his disciples to 'love one another; just as I have loved you.'

May the God-given love Mary and Craig have for each other
fill them with joy as they face the challenges of life.

May they be blessed with good health,
a safe environment and the many gifts marriage brings.

Lord in your mercy

R: Hear our prayer

Let us remember our loved ones who have gone before us.
It is our hope that they join us today in spirit as we celebrate
the marriage of Craig and Mary.

Lord in your mercy

R: Hear our prayer

Let us pray for all the families and friends of Mary and Craig who have
travelled from near and far to be here today.

May the light of love shine bright in their hearts.

Lord in your mercy

R: Hear our prayer

We are blessed today on this happy occasion.

We thank God for his many gifts to us and his presence
here in our midst.

We are aware of the widespread suffering in our world caused by war,
poverty and disease.

We ask God to bring peace to the world and comfort to all in distress.

Lord in your mercy

R: Hear our prayer

Let us turn to Our Lady, Mary, Mother of God, remembering her gentle presence at the wedding in Cana. May she intercede for us and add her voice to the prayers in our hearts as we say together:

**Hail Mary,
Full of Grace
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art 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.**

OFFERTORY PROCESSION

James and Luke Owen

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord, accept our offering for this newly married couple. In your fatherly love watch over and protect Mary and Craig, whom you have united in marriage.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks. You created man in love to share your divine life. We see his high destiny in the love of husband and wife, which bears the imprint of your own divine love. Love is man's origin, love is his constant calling, love is his fulfilment in heaven. The love of man and woman is made holy in the sacrament of marriage, and becomes the mirror of your everlasting love. Through Christ the choirs of angels and all the saints praise and worship your glory. May our voices blend with theirs as we join in their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Please kneel

Lord, you are holy indeed, the fountain of all holiness. Let your spirit come upon these gifts to make them holy so that they may become for us the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Before he was given up to death, a death he freely accepted, he took bread, and gave you thanks. He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

Take this all of you, and eat it: This is my body which will be given up for you

When supper was ended, he took the cup. Again he gave thanks and praise, gave the cup to his disciples, and said:

Take this all of you, and drink from it: this is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

**When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.**

In memory of his death and resurrection, we offer you, Father, this life-giving bread, this saving cup. We thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. May all of us who share in the body and blood of Christ be brought together in unity by the Holy Spirit. Lord, remember your Church throughout the world; make us grow in love, together with Francis our Pope, Mark our Bishop, and all clergy. Remember also, Lord, Mary & Craig, whom you have brought to their wedding day, that, by your grace, may they always live in mutual love and peace. Remember our brothers and sisters who have gone to their rest in the hope of rising again; bring them and all the departed into the light of your presence. Have mercy on us all; make us worthy to share eternal life with Mary, the virgin mother of God, with the apostles, and with all the saints who have done your will throughout the ages. May we praise you in union with them, and give you glory through your son, Jesus Christ.

Through him, with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, forever and ever.

Amen

Please stand

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth, as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Amen.

Nuptial Blessing

Let us ask God to bless Mary and Craig, now married in Christ and unite them in his love. God, our Father, creator of the universe, you made man and woman in your own likeness, and blessed their union. We humbly pray to you for Mary and Craig, today united in the sacrament of marriage. May your blessing come upon them. May they find happiness in their love for each other, and enrich the life of the Church. May they praise you in their days of happiness and turn to you in times of sorrow. May they know the joy of your help in their work and the strength of your presence in their need. May they worship you with the Church and be your witnesses in the world. May old age come to them in the company of their friends, and may they reach at last the kingdom of heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

have mercy on us,

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

have mercy on us,

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

grant us peace.

Please kneel

Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the lamb.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Holy Communion

For wedding guests who are not Catholic, please feel welcome to come forward for a blessing. If you would like a blessing, please place your right hand on your left shoulder. Page Boy Luke will demonstrate perfectly!

Prayer after Communion

Lord, we have shared the food of your table, pray for our friends Mary and Craig, whom you have joined together in marriage. Keep them close to you always. May their love for each other proclaim to the world their faith in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

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

In 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.**

Signing of the Register

Recessional Music

Arrival of the Queen of Sheba – G. F. Handel

