

*Order of Service*  
*for the wedding ceremony of*



MICHELLE ABRAHAM  
*and*  
JULIAN DRUKER

*06.07.2024*

*St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Church*  
*Conducted by Fr Michael O'Boy*

*Thank you so much for being here*

## **ENTRANCE OF THE BRIDE**

*Please stand for the entrance of the bride*

### **INTRODUCTORY RITE**

**Priest**

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

**All**

Amen

### **Opening Hymn**

*Lord of the Dance by Sydney Carter*

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,  
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,  
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth:  
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

Dance, then, wherever you may be,  
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,  
But they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me;  
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;  
They came with me and the dance went on:

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame:  
The holy people said it was a shame.  
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high,  
And they left me there on a cross to die:

They cut me down and I leapt up high;  
I am the life that'll never, never die.  
I'll live in you if you'll live in me:  
I am the Lord of the dance, said he.

## **Greeting**

**Priest** Michelle and Julian, the Church shares your joy and warmly welcomes you, together with your families and friends, as today you establish between yourselves a lifelong partnership. For believers God is the source of love and fidelity, because God is love. So let us listen attentively to his word, and let us humbly pray to him, that he may grant you your hearts' desire and fulfil every one of your prayers.

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

*Please sit for the Reading*

### **First reading - Read by Oliver Druker**

*A reading from the book of the Apocalypse (19:1,5-9).*

I, John, seemed to hear the great sound of a huge crowd in heaven, singing, 'Alleluia! Victory and glory and power to our God!' Then a voice came from the throne; it said, 'Praise our God, you servants of his and all who, great and small, revere him'. And I seemed to hear the voices of a huge crowd, like the sound of the ocean or the great roar of thunder, answering, 'Alleluia! The reign of the Lord our God Almighty has begun; let us be glad and joyful and give praise to God, because this is the time for the marriage of the Lamb. His bride is ready, and she has been able to dress herself in

dazzling white linen, because her linen is made of the good deeds of the saints.' The angel said, 'Write this: Happy are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the lamb'. The Word of the Lord.

**R/Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm - *Read by Stephanie Prentice***

Ps 32 (33): 12. 18. 20-21.22.

**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 - *Read by Alicia Adejobi***

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians  
(12:31-13:8).

Be ambitious for the higher gifts. And 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.

**R/ Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

God is love; let us love one another

As God has loved us.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

### **Gospel - Read by Fr Michael**

Matthew 22:35-40.

The Lord be with you.

**R/And with your spirit.**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to the Gospel according to Matthew

**R/Glory to you O Lord**

A lawyer, to disconcert Jesus, put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the

Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also'.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R/Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **HOMILY**

*Please sit for the Homily*

## **RITE OF MARRIAGE**

**Priest** Dearly beloved, you have come together here before a minister of the Church and in the presence of the community so that your intention to enter into Marriage may be strengthened by the Lord with a sacred seal, and your love be enriched with his blessing so that you may have strength to be faithful to each other for ever and to assume all the responsibilities of married life. And so, in the presence of the Church, I ask you to state your intentions.

### **Questions Before the Consent**

**Priest** Michelle and Julian, have you come here to enter into Marriage without coercion, freely and wholeheartedly?

**Groom I have.**

**Bride I have.**

**Priest** Julian, are you resolved to take Michelle 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?

**Groom I am.**

**Priest** Michelle, are you resolved to take Julian 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?

**Bride I am.**

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

**Groom I am.**

**Bride I am.**

### **The Civil Declaration of Freedom**

**Priest** Are you, Julian Matthew William Druker, free lawfully to marry Michelle Victoria Elizabeth Abraham?

**Groom I am.**

**Priest** Are you, Michelle Victoria Elizabeth Abraham, free lawfully to marry Julian Matthew William Druker?

**Bride I am.**

### **The Consent**

**Priest** 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.

**Groom** I call upon these persons here present to witness that I, Julian Matthew William Druker, do take thee, Michelle Victoria Elizabeth Abraham, to be my lawful 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.

**Bride** I call upon these persons here present to witness that I, Michelle Victoria Elizabeth Abraham, do take thee, Julian Matthew William Druker, to be my lawful 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 the Consent**

**Priest** 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.

**Priest** Let us bless the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

### **The Blessing and Giving of Rings**

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

**Groom** Michelle, receive this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity.

**Bride** Julian, 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.

### **HYMN**

#### ***All Things Bright and Beautiful by Bill Staines***

All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful,  
the Lord God that made them all.

Each little flower that opens,  
each little bird that sings,  
he made their glowing colours,  
he made their tiny wings.



The purple headed mountains  
the rivers running by,  
the sunset and the morning,  
that brightens up the sky.

The cold wind in the winter,  
the pleasant summer sun,  
the ripe fruits in the garden,  
he made them every one.

He gave us eyes to see them,  
and lips that we might tell,  
how great is God Almighty,  
who has made all things well.

### **INTERCESSIONS**

***Read by Lucy Perrin and Christopher L'etandrine***

*Please stand for the Intercessions*

**Priest** With confidence, let us turn in prayer to the Father who created us in His own image and who holds us in being, that we, in all we do and say, might be a reflection of his love.

**Reader** Let us pray for Michelle and Julian; that they may continue to grow in their understanding, honesty, respect and love for one another.  
Lord in your mercy

**R/Hear our prayer.**

**Reader** Let us pray for the families united by this marriage and may they continue to be a source of strength, support, joy and love in Michelle and Julian's lives.

Lord in your mercy

**R/Hear our prayer.**

**Reader** Let us pray for good health, safety and peace in Michelle and Julian's lives, and also for all the family and friends who have gathered here to celebrate today

Lord in your mercy

**R/Hear our prayer.**

**Reader** Let us pray for those who are going through challenge, adversity, trouble and pain at this time, and may the Lord be a source of strength, solace and love for them.

Lord in your mercy

**R/Hear our prayer.**

**Priest** God the Father wills that his children be of one heart in charity; let those who are Christian call upon him in the prayer of God's family, which our Lord Jesus Christ has taught us:

**All** 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**

*Please remain standing as the bride and groom kneel for the Nuptial Blessing*

**Priest** Now let us humbly invoke God's blessing upon this bride and groom, that in his kindness he may favour with his help those on whom he has bestowed the bond of marriage.

**Priest** Holy Father, maker of the whole world, who created man and woman in your own image and willed that their union be crowned with your blessing, we humbly beseech you for these your servants, who are joined today in the Marriage covenant. May your abundant blessing, Lord, come down upon this bride, Michelle, and upon Julian, her companion for life, and may the power of your Holy Spirit set their hearts aflame from on high, so that, living out together the gift of Matrimony, they may be known for the integrity of their conduct and be recognised as virtuous parents.

In happiness may they praise you, O Lord, in sorrow may they seek you out; may they have the joy of your presence to assist them in their toil, and know that you are near to comfort them in their need; and after a happy old age, together with the circle of friends that surrounds them, may they come to the Kingdom of Heaven. Through Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

**Priest** May almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

**Priest** Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

**All Thanks be to God.**

### **SIGNING OF THE MARRIAGE SCHEDULE**

*Please be seated as Michelle and Julian, along with their witnesses, sign the Marriage Schedule*

## **Music**

*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring – Johann Sebastian Bach*

## **PROCESSION OF THE BRIDE & GROOM**

*"Wedding March", from A Midsummer Night's Dream – by Felix Mendelssohn*

## **Polite Reminder to Guests**


Please kindly do not throw any type of confetti inside or outside of the church (this includes alternatives such as biodegradable confetti, rice, etc). Biodegradable confetti will be provided and can be thrown at Rothamsted Manor

Please kindly note a Wedding Bus will be collecting you at 1.30pm from outside the church to take you to Rothamsted Manor for the day & evening reception









MAID OF HONOUR

*Lauren O'Brien*

BEST MEN

*Anto Filippi*

*Rohit Kachroo*

BRIDESMAIDS

*Ryan Cook*

*James Smithson*

*Sammy Wem*

USHERS

*Oliver Druker*

*Stewart Maclean*

WITNESSES

*Tom Butler*

*Katie Hill*