

Opening Prayer

Be attentive to our prayers, O Lord, and in your kindness pour out your grace on these your servants Eilish and Connor that, coming together before your altar, they may be confirmed in love for one another. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. All: **Amen.**

First Reading, 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.***

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading

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.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

Father O'Neill: A reading from the holy Gospel according to according to Matthew. (5:1-12)

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up to the hill. There he sat down, and was joined by the disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them: How happy are the poor in spirit; Theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle: They shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who mourn: They shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: They shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful: They shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart: They shall seek God. Happy the peacemakers: They shall be called sons of God. Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: Theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

All: ***Glory to you, Lord.***

Father O'Neill: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Rite of Marriage

Dear children of God, you have come to this church so that the Lord may seal your love in the presence of the Father O'Neill and this community. Christian marriage is a sacred union which enriches natural love. It binds those who enter it to be faithful to each other for ever; it creates between them a bond that endures for life and cannot be broken; it demands that they love and honour each other, (that they accept from God the children he may give them, and bring them up in his love). To help them in their marriage the husband and wife receive the life-long grace of the sacrament.

Is this your understanding of marriage?

Eilish and Connor: It is.

Father O'Neill: Dear children of God, You have come today to pledge your love before God and before the Church here present in the person of the priest, your families and friends. In becoming husband and wife you give yourselves to each other for life. You promise to be true and faithful, to support and cherish each other until death, so that your years together will be the living out in love of the pledge you now make. May your love for each other reflect the enduring love of Christ for his Church. As you face the future together, keep in mind that the Sacrament of marriage unites you with Christ, and brings you, through the years, the grace and blessing of God our Father. Marriage is from God: he alone can give you the happiness which goes beyond human expectation, and which grows deeper through the difficulties and struggles of life. Put your trust in God as you set out together in life. Make your home be a centre of Christian family life. The Christian home makes Christ and his Church present in the world of everyday things. May all who enter your home find there the presence of the Lord; for he has said: "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Father O'Neill: Now, as you are about to exchange your marriage vows the Church wishes to be assured that you appreciate the meaning of what you do, and so I ask you:

Have you come here of your own free will and choice to marry each other?

Eilish and Connor: We have.

Father O'Neill: Will you love and honour each other in marriage all the days of your life?

Eilish and Connor: We will.

Father O'Neill: Are you willing to accept with love the children God may send you, and bring them up in accordance with the law of Christ, and his Church?

Eilish and Connor: We are.

Declaration of Consent

Father O'Neill: I invite you then to declare before God and his Church your consent to become husband and wife.

Groom: I, Connor, take you, Eilish, as my wife, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, till death do us part.

Bride: I, Eilish, take you, Connor, as my husband, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, till death do us part.

Father O'Neill: What God joins together man must not separate. May the Lord confirm the consent that you have given and enrich you with his blessings.

All: **Amen.**

Blessing of the Rings

Father O'Neill: Lord, bless Eilish and Connor, and consecrate their married life.

May these rings be a symbol of their faith in each other, and a reminder of their love. Through Christ, our Lord.

All: ***Amen.***

Exchange of Rings

Groom: Eilish, wear this ring as a sign of our faithful love in the Name of The Father and of The Son and of The Holy Spirit.

Bride: Connor, wear this ring as a sign of our faithful love in the Name of The Father and of The Son and of The Holy Spirit.

Lighting of the Marriage Candle

Eilish and Connor light their Marriage Candle which represents their Sacramental Union as husband and wife.

Prayer of the Newly Married Couple

Eilish and Connor: We thank you, Lord, and we praise you for bringing us to this happy day. You have given us to each other. Now, together, we give ourselves to you. We ask you, Lord: make us one in our love; keep us one in your peace. Protect our marriage. Bless our home. Make us gentle. Keep us faithful. And when life is over unite us again where parting is no more in the kingdom of your love. There we will praise you in the happiness and peace of our eternal home.

All: ***Amen.***

Prayer of the Faithful

Father O'Neill: Eilish and Connor have dedicated themselves to one another on unending love, let us ask God our Father to keep them and all married couples faithful to him and united in themselves.

We pray for Eilish and Connor as they begin their married life, keep them strong in your love, friendship and devotion to one another and bless them with peace, health and happiness.

Lord hear us

We pray that Eilish and Connor home shall be filled with love and happiness. Let its door be ever open and may the peace of Christ always remain there.

Lord hear us.

For the parents, grandparents, families and friends of Eilish and Connor, and all who have helped them become husband and wife. May they continue to help, support, and love them in the years that lie ahead.

Lord hear us.

We pray for those who are sick at this time. May God give them strength and courage to enlighten their faith. We also pray for those who care for the sick. May the Lord reward them for their goodness towards others.

Lord hear us.

We pray for married couples. May they give thanks for the happiness they have known and may the joy of this day deepen their love for one another.

Lord hear us.

God our Father, you are the creator of all that is good. Listen to these, our prayers, which we make with trust in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

Liturgy of the Eucharist Preparation of Altar and Gifts

Father O'Neill: Receive, we pray, O Lord, the offering made on the occasion of this sealing of the sacred bond of Marriage, and, just as your goodness is its origin, may your providence guide its course.

Through Christ our Lord. All: ***Amen.***

Preface

Father O'Neill: It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. For you have forged the covenant of marriage as a sweet yoke of harmony and an unbreakable bond of peace, so that the chaste and fruitful love of holy Matrimony may serve to increase the children you adopt as your own. By your providence and grace, O Lord, you accomplish the wonder of this twofold design: that, while the birth of children brings beauty to the world, their rebirth in Baptism gives increase to the Church, through Christ our Lord. Through him, with the Angels and all the Saints, we sing the hymn of your praise, as without end we acclaim:

All: ***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.***

The Eucharistic Prayer

You are indeed Holy, O Lord and all you have created rightly gives you praise, for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, by the power and working of the Holy Spirit, you give life to all things and make them holy, and you never cease to gather a people to yourself, so that from the rising of the sun to its setting a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name. Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you: by the same Spirit graciously make holy these gifts we have brought to you for consecration, that they may become the Body and Blood of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, at whose command we celebrate these mysteries. For on the night he was betrayed he himself took bread, and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT, FOR THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice, and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing, and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying: TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT, FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD, THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT, WHICH WILL BE Poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

The mystery of faith

All: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again. Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial of the saving Passion of your Son, his wondrous Resurrection and Ascension into heaven, and as we look forward to his second coming we offer you in thanksgiving this holy and living sacrifice. Look, we pray, upon the oblation of your Church and, recognising the sacrificial Victim by whose death you willed to reconcile us to yourself, grant that we, who are nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son and filled with his Holy Spirit, may become one body, one spirit, in Christ.

May he make of us an eternal offering to you, so that we may obtain an inheritance with your elect, especially with the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with your blessed Apostles and glorious Martyrs and with all the Saints, on whose constant intercession in your presence we rely for unfailing help. May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation, we pray, O Lord, advance the peace and salvation of all the world. Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity your pilgrim Church on earth with your servant N. our Pope and N. our Bishop, the Order of Bishops, all the clergy, and the entire people you have gained for your own. Listen graciously to the prayers of this family, whom you have summoned before you: Strengthen; we pray, in the grace of Marriage. Eilish and Connor, whom you have brought happily to their wedding day, that under your protection they may always be faithful in their lives to the covenant they have sealed in your presence. In your compassion, O merciful Father, gather to yourself all your children scattered throughout the world. To our departed brothers and sisters and to all who were pleasing to you at their passing from this life, give kind admittance to your kingdom. There we hope to enjoy forever the fullness of your glory through Christ our Lord, through whom you bestow on the world all that is good. Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

Communion Rite Lord's Prayer

Father O'Neill: Let us pray with confidence to the Father, in the words our Saviour gave us. All: **Our Father...**

Nuptial Blessing

Father O'Neill: Let us pray to the Lord for this bride and groom, who come to the altar as they begin their married life, that (partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ) they may always be bound together by love for one another.

Holy Father, who formed man in your own image, male and female you created them, so that as husband and wife, united in body and heart, they might fulfil their calling in the world; O God, who, to reveal the great design you formed in your love, willed that the love of spouses for each other should foreshadow the covenant you graciously made with your people, so that, by fulfilment of the sacramental sign, the mystical marriage of Christ with his Church might become manifest in the union of husband and wife among your faithful.

Graciously stretch out your right hand over these your servants Eilish and Connor, we pray, and pour into their hearts the power of the Holy Spirit. Grant, O Lord, that, as they enter upon this sacramental union, they may share with one another the gifts of your love and, by being for each other a sign of your presence, become one heart and one mind. May they also sustain, O Lord, by their deeds the home they are forming (and prepare their children to become members of your heavenly household by raising them in the way of the Gospel). Graciously crown with your blessings your daughter Eilish so that, by being a good wife (and mother), she may bring warmth to her home with a love that is pure and adorn it with welcoming graciousness. Bestow a heavenly blessing also, O Lord, on Connor your servant, that he may be a worthy, good and faithful husband (and a provident father). Grant, holy Father, that, desiring to approach your table as a couple joined in Marriage in your presence, they may one day have the joy of taking part in your great banquet in heaven. Through Christ our Lord All: **Amen.**

Father O'Neill: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles; Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever. All: **Amen.**

Father O'Neill: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Father O'Neill: Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

All: **Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world have mercy on us.

Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Father O'Neill: Behold the Lamb of God; behold Him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

All: **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

Communion Antiphon

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you, says the Lord.