

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

All sit

### FIRST READING

**A reading from the book of Genesis**

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.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Reader:** The Lord fills the earth with his love.

**All: The Lord fills the earth with his love.**

The response is repeated by everyone after each verse.

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.

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.

May your love be upon us, O Lord,  
as we place all our hope in you.

## **SECOND READING**

### **A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians**

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.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**All stand**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

As long as we love one another

God will live in us,

and his love will be complete in us.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

**Fr Harry:** A The Lord be with you.

**All:** And with your spirit.

**Fr Harry:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said 'Woman why turn to me? My hour has not come yet.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews: each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water,' and they filled them to the brim. 'Draw some out now,' he told them, 'and take it to the steward.' They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from - only the servants who had drawn the water knew - the steward called the bridegroom and said, 'People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink, but you have kept the best wine till now.'

This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **HOMILY**

**All sit**

## **THE CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE**

**All stand**

**Fr Harry:** Stephen and Caitlin, 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**

**Fr Harry:** Stephen and Caitlin, have you come here to enter into Marriage without coercion, freely and wholeheartedly?

**Stephen & Caitlin: I have.**

**Fr Harry:** Stephen, are you resolved to take Caitlin, 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?

**Stephen: I am.**

**Fr Harry:** Caitlin, are you resolved to take Stephen, 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?

**Caitlin: I am.**

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

**Stephen & Caitlin: I am.**

### **DECLARATION OF FREEDOM**

**Stephen: I do solemnly declare that I know not of any lawful impediment why I, Stephen Paul O'Donnell, may not be joined in matrimony to Caitlin Patricia Simmons.**

**Caitlin: I do solemnly declare that I know not of any lawful impediment why I, Caitlin Patricia Simmons, may not be joined in matrimony to Stephen Paul O'Donnell.**

### **THE CONSENT**

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

**Stephen: I call upon these persons here present to witness that I, Stephen Paul O'Donnell, do take thee, Caitlin Patricia Simmons, 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.**

**Caitlin: I call upon these persons here present to witness that I, Stephen Paul O'Donnell, do take thee, Caitlin Patricia Simmons, 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.**

### **THE RECEPTION OF THE CONSENT**

**Fr Harry:** 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.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **BLESSING AND GIVING OF RINGS**

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

**All: Amen.**

**Stephen: Caitlin receive this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity. In the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**

**Caitlin: Stephen receive this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity. In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.**

### **SIGNING OF THE REGISTER**

Nero String Quartet

### **INTERCESSIONS**

**Fr Harry:** In the love of husband and wife, God shows us a wonderful reflection of his own eternal love. Today, Stephen and Caitlin have dedicated themselves to one another in unending love.

They will share with one another all that life brings. Let us ask God to bless them in the years ahead, and to be with them in all the circumstances of their marriage.

**Reader:** We pray for Stephen and Caitlin, that their life together will be filled with happiness and love, that they may always be true friends to each other. That together they will face the challenges of life. May their home be one filled with love, laughter and happiness. Bless them on their journey through life.

Lord hear us.

**All: Lord, graciously hear us.**

**Reader:** We pray for the parents of Stephen and Caitlin, for their family and friends who have travelled to be with them today and all who have helped them to become husband and wife. We give thanks for their constant love and support.

Lord hear us.

**All: Lord, graciously hear us.**

**Reader:** We remember the smiles and laughter of those who 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 with us. May God one day unite us again.

Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, graciously hear us.**

**Reader:** Lord, we are blessed today to be gathered together for a happy occasion. Let us give thanks for our own blessings, for the gifts of life and health, which we so often take for granted and pray for those who are suffering due to illness, loneliness, injustice, or poverty at this time. We also remember those who care for them, that God will give them the hope and inner strength they need.

Lord, hear us

**All: Lord, graciously hear us.**

**Reader:** We pray for the private intentions of all here present, that God may grant you and your loved ones your requests and guide you happily through life.

Lord, hear us

**All: Lord, graciously hear us.**

**All: 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.**

**Fr Harry:** Listen, O Lord, to the prayers we offer for Stephen and Caitlin. May their love for each other be a never-failing reminder of your own love for us all. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

### **LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

**Fr Harry:** Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands. It will become for us the bread of life.

**All: Blessed be God for ever.**

**Fr Harry:** Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.

**All: Blessed be God for ever.**

**All stand**

**Fr Harry:** Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.**

**Fr Harry:** 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.**

### **Eucharistic prayer**

**Fr Harry:** The Lord be with you.

**All: And with your spirit,**

**Fr Harry:** Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to the Lord,**

**Fr Harry:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right and just**

**Fr Harry:** 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, through Christ our Lord.

For in him you have made a new covenant with your people, so that, as you have redeemed man and woman by the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection, so in Christ you might make them partakers of divine nature and joint heirs with him of heavenly glory.

In the union of husband and wife you give a sign of Christ's loving gift of grace, so that the Sacrament we celebrate might draw us back more deeply into the wonderful design of your love.

And so, with the Angels and all the Saints, we praise you, and 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.**

**All Kneel**

**Fr Harry:** You are indeed Holy, O Lord, the fount of all holiness. Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray, by sending down your spirit upon them like the dewfall, so that they may become for us the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At the time he was betrayed and entered willingly into his passion, he took bread and giving thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take this, all of you, and eat 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 once more giving thanks, he gave it 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.

**Fr Harry:** The mystery of faith:

**All: We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection until you come again.**

**Fr Harry:** Therefore, as we celebrate the memorial of his death and resurrection, we offer you, Lord, the bread of life and the chalice of salvation, giving thanks that you have held us worthy to be in your presence and minister to you. Humbly we pray that, partaking of the body and blood of Christ, we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.

Remember, Lord, your Church, spread throughout the world, and bring her to the fullness of charity together with Francis our Pope and N our Bishop and all the clergy.

Be mindful also, Lord, Stephen and Caitlin, whom you have brought to their wedding day, so that, by your grace they may abide in mutual love and in peace.

Remember also our brother and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection, and all who have died in your mercy: welcome them into the light of your face. Have mercy on us all, we pray, that with Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with the blessed Apostles, and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout the ages, we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life, and may praise and glorify you through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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**

## **RITE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**All stand**

**Fr Harry:** At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**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.**

**Fr Harry:** Dear brothers and sister, let us humbly pray to the Lord that on these his servants, now married in Christ, he may mercifully pour out the blessing of his grace and make of one heart in love those he has joined by a holy covenant.

O God, who by your mighty power created all things out of nothing, and when you had set in place the universe, formed man and woman in your own image, making the woman an inseparable helpmate to the man, that they might no longer be two, but one flesh, and taught that what you were pleased to make one must never be divided.

O God, who consecrated the bond of Marriage by so great a mystery that in the wedding covenant you foreshadowed the Sacrament of Christ and his Church.

O God, by whom woman is joined to man and the companionship they had in the beginning is endowed with the one blessing not forfeited by original sin nor washed away by the flood.

Look now with favour on these your servants, joined together in Matrimony, who ask to be strengthened by your blessing. Send down on them the grace of the Holy Spirit and pour your love into their hearts, that they may remain faithful in the Marriage covenant.

May the grace of love and peace abide in your daughter, Caitlin and let her always follow the example of those holy women whose praises are sung in Scriptures. May her husband entrust his heart to her, so that, acknowledging her as his equal and his joint heir to the life of grace, he may show her due honour and cherish her always with the love that Christ has for his Church.