



CHOOSING MUSIC FOR YOUR WEDDING

Archdiocese of Perth
Liturgical Guidelines

Centre for Liturgy

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Introduction

A church wedding is a liturgical celebration; it is part of the public worship of the Church. It has a structure that has to be observed. Within this structure, there are places where choices have to be made, particularly with regard to the selections of readings and music. These choices need to reflect the solemnity and dignity of the occasion, whether the wedding takes place within the context of Mass or a Liturgy of the Word, and cannot be determined solely by your tastes and preferences. The fact that they are part of a liturgical celebration means that they have to satisfy certain criteria.

In this resource we will outline the structure of the wedding liturgy, describe the places where choices can be made, and discuss the restrictions that apply. We will also discuss working with the celebrant, music ministers and copyright.

This resource is offered to couples to help with the planning of their wedding, particularly the music, so that the Christian emphasis of this ceremony will speak clearly to all those present and inspire them to follow Jesus in all aspects of their life together.

Introductory Notes

The Second Vatican Council called for “full, conscious and active participation” in our liturgical rites. To this end, the Centre for Liturgy has prepared templates for the Rite of Marriage within Mass and for the Rite of Marriage without Mass. Many people who will attend your Marriage liturgy will be unfamiliar with the ritual. It is hoped that your use of these templates will assist those who attend your wedding liturgy to fully participate in the ritual with meaning. The two templates can be downloaded from the Centre for Liturgy website. There is also a compressed file that contains the prayers and readings which can be copied and pasted into the templates.

There are five parts to the Rite of Marriage within Mass:

- The Introductory Rites
- The Liturgy of the Word
- The Celebration of Matrimony
- The Liturgy of the Eucharist
- The Concluding Rites.

The Rite of Marriage without Mass has the same parts without the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

You will notice that each part starts on a new page of each template. It is always helpful to start each new part on a new page to help people follow the ritual in an easier fashion.

There are copyright issues that need to be taken into consideration. The reprint permission for the texts from the Missal and Lectionary are listed on the last page of each template. There are separate licenses for reprinting images and the text or melody of hymns and for musical settings of the Ordinary of the Mass, e.g. Holy, Holy, Holy. You will need to liaise with the musicians or parish office regarding the music copyright licenses. Appropriate musical suggestions are given below.

The Structure of the Rite and the Place of Music

The Rite comes in two forms, the structures of which are given below.

<i>Rite of Marriage Within Mass</i>	<i>Rite of Marriage Without Mass</i>
<p>The Introductory Rites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Entrance Procession -Entrance Hymn # -The Sign of the Cross -Greeting and Welcome Address -Gloria # -The Collect 	<p>The Introductory Rites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Entrance Procession -Entrance Hymn # -The Sign of the Cross -Greeting and Welcome Address -The Collect
<p>The Liturgy of the Word</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -First Reading -Responsorial Psalm # -Second Reading -Gospel Acclamation # -Gospel Reading -Homily 	<p>The Liturgy of the Word</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -First Reading -Responsorial Psalm # -Second Reading -Gospel Acclamation # -Gospel Reading -Homily
<p>The Celebration of Matrimony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The Questions Before the Consent -The Consent -The Reception of the Consent -The Blessing and Giving of Rings -The Universal Prayer 	<p>The Celebration of Matrimony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The Questions Before the Consent -The Consent -The Reception of the Consent -The Blessing and Giving of Rings -The Universal Prayer -The Nuptial Blessing
<p>The Liturgy of the Eucharist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Presentation and Preparation of the Gifts # -Prayer over the Offerings -Preface -Holy, Holy, Holy # -Memorial Acclamation # -Great Amen # -The Lord's Prayer # -The Nuptial Blessing -Sign of Peace -Lamb of God # -Communion Procession # -Prayer after Communion 	

<p>The Conclusion of the Celebration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Solemn Blessing and Dismissal -Signing of the Documents # -Recessional # 	<p>The Conclusion of the Celebration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Solemn Blessing and Dismissal -Signing of the Documents # -Recessional #
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The parts of the ceremony marked with a # above are the parts where there can be singing or instrumental music. We will consider each of these in the next section.

Music for various parts of the Rite

Entrance Processional/ Entrance Song:

- The Wedding liturgy begins with the Entrance Processional or the Entrance Song.
- Either an instrumental piece or a song can be used to accompany the bride as she processes to the altar.
- If an instrumental piece is used, it can be followed by the Gathering Song, which assists to people to prepare for worship.

Glory to God:

- May be sung.

Responsorial Psalm:

- Should be sung by a Cantor with the people joining in the response.

Gospel Acclamation:

- Should be sung. It may be omitted if it is not sung.

When Marriage is celebrated within Mass:

- The Offertory Procession may be accompanied by a song or by instrumental music.
- The acclamations before and during the Eucharistic Prayer (Holy, Holy, Holy; Memorial Acclamation and Great Amen) should be sung. There are many Mass settings that can be used for these acclamations. One that is familiar to the guests should be chosen.
- The Lord's Prayer can be sung. The plainchant setting is the recommended setting for use in Australia.
- The Lamb of God may be sung. It can be taken from the same Mass setting as the acclamations during the Eucharistic Prayer.
- The Communion Processional is sung while people are going to Communion.

Signing of Documents after the Ceremony:

- Instrumental music can be played and songs can be sung while these documents are being signed.

Recessional:

- Accompanies the couple as they leave the church.
- It may be either a song or an instrumental piece.

Choosing suitable music for a Liturgical Celebration

It will be necessary to choose songs for some or all of the following:

- Entrance Processional or Gathering Song
- Offertory Processional
- Communion Processional
- Music during the signing of the documents
- Recessional.

The Liturgy of the Word

- The Responsorial Psalm and the Gospel Acclamation should be settings of the texts in the Lectionary. (*See template folders.*)
- The Responsorial Psalm should not be replaced by some other song.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

- The parts of the Mass should be taken from a well-known Mass setting, so that, as far as possible, the people can join in singing them.

Instrumental Music

- Instrumental music for the Entrance Processional and Recessional can be joyful and lively.
- Instrumental music at the Presentation and Preparation of the Gifts or during the signing of the documents should be more restrained.
- Instrumental renditions of popular songs or pieces from operas are not suitable.

Recorded Music

- The use of recorded music should be avoided.

Secular Songs

- The words of the songs that are chosen need to reflect the values and beliefs of the Church. Very few popular love songs meet this criterion. Such songs can be played at the wedding reception, but should not be part of the wedding ceremony.

Working with the Music Ministers

- There is a range of possibilities regarding the musician you choose for the wedding. They can range from solo organist to organist and cantor to a full choir.
- You will need to meet with the organist, cantor or choir director well before the wedding to choose the music.
- If necessary, they will be able to make suggestions regarding appropriate pieces of music and give you a selection to choose from.
- They will also be able to advise you on copyright matters.

Copyright

- If you decide to produce a wedding booklet, you need to observe the requirements of the law regarding copyright.
- If you wish to reproduce the words of the songs, you may need to obtain a license to do so. The music ministers will advise you on where and how to apply for a copyright license. Alternatively, you can contact OneLicense www.onelicense.net

In addition to music being subject to copyright, the copyright in the prayers used at Mass is held by the International Committee on English in the Liturgy (ICEL). The copyright in the readings in the Lectionary, the Gospel Acclamations and responses to the Responsorial Psalms are also held by the ICEL. The copyright in the verses of the Responsorial Psalms is held by the Grail. The ICEL texts can be reproduced for use in worship, provided that due acknowledgment is given. More information about the copyright for Mass texts is available from <https://www.catholic.org.au/national-liturgical-council/liturgy-copyright-information>.

Marriage Ceremony Preparation Guide

The following form can be used to prepare the marriage ceremony. Items marked “[NM]” are for Nuptial Masses only.

Celebrant: _____

Concelebrant/s: _____

Cantor: _____

Organist:

Other ministers: _____

Music before ceremony:

The Introductory Rites:

Entrance Processional/ Entrance Hymn:

Gloria [NM]

The Liturgy of the Word:

First Reading:

Reader:

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalmist:

Second Reading:

Reader:

Gospel Acclamation:

Gospel Reading: _____

The Celebration of Matrimony:

Song of Praise:

Universal Prayer: intentions announced by:

The Liturgy of the Eucharist:

Offertory Procession song/ music:

_____ [NM]

Gifts presented by:

_____ [NM]

Holy, Holy, Holy:

_____ [NM]

Memorial Acclamation:

_____ [NM]

Great Amen:

_____ [NM]

Our Father:

_____ [NM]

Lamb of God:

_____ [NM]

Communion Song:

_____ [NM]

The Conclusion of the Celebration:

Music during the Signing of the Documents:

Recessional:

Psalm settings:

Psalm 32

Response: *The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.* (CWB 134a)

Psalm 33

Response: *I will bless the Lord at all times.* (CWB 331) or:

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord. (CWB 332, 595/
GA 33, 34, 35)

Psalm 102

Response: *The Lord is kind and merciful.* (CWB 350, 351) or:

The Lord's kindness is everlasting to those who fear him.

Psalm 111

Response: *Happy are those who do what the Lord commands.* (CWB 482b)

Psalm 127

Response: *Happy are those who fear the Lord.* (CWB 192a R2, 445)

Psalm 144

Response: *The Lord is compassionate to all his creatures.* (CWB 134c)

Please note that the verses in the settings listed above may not be the same as the verses set down in the Lectionary for weddings.

Title	AOV1	AOV2	CWB	CWBII	GA
A Blessing (Willcock)					440
A New Commandment			615	443	318
As man and woman we were made				135	
Blessing the Marriage		35			
Bridegroom and Bride		42			220
Come, on this Wedding Day					222
Come to a Wedding					221
God is Love, the source of Goodness			693		
God, who created hearts to love				136	
God, who blesses new beginnings				137	
Hear Us Now, Our God and Father			706		
In Love We Choose to Live		63			
Love divine, all loves excelling			740		463
May Christ live in our hearts			745		
May God Bless and Keep You	177				441
May God's light of joyous blessing				138	
May You Be United In Love					218
O Perfect Love			774	139	
Sing a new song, sing a new song			805	599	398
Ubi caritas et amor (Setting 1)				633	
Wedding Blessing					219

Abbreviations

AOV1 - As One Voice Volume 1

AOV2 - As One Voice Volume 2

CWB - Catholic Worship Book (out of print)

CWBII - Catholic Worship Book II

GA - Gather Australia (out of print)

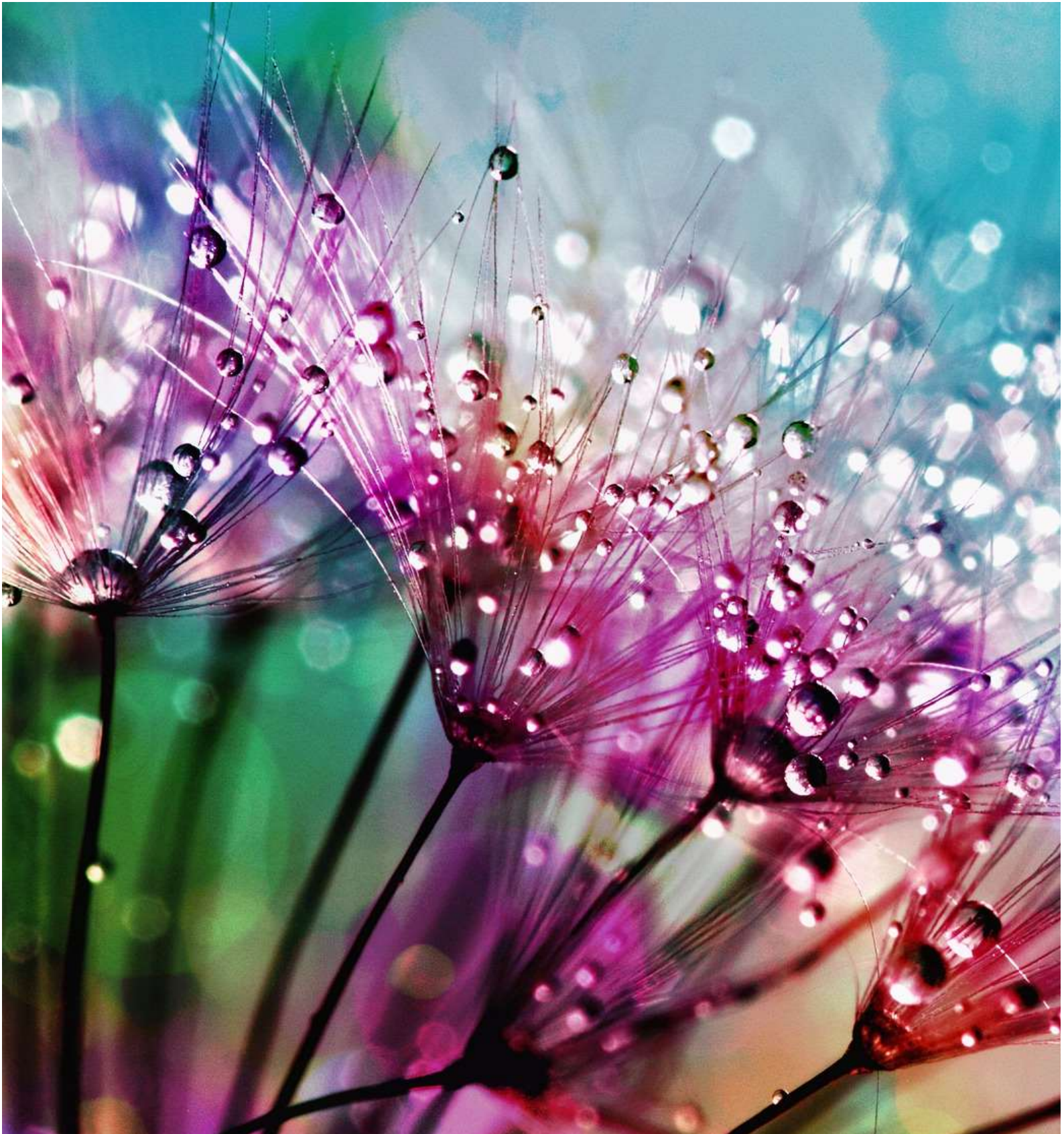
Organ pieces

Preludes and Interludes

- Air (from *Water Music*) (Handel)
- Air (from *Orchestral Suite no. 3 in D*) (Bach)
- Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (from *Cantata No. 147*) (Bach)
- Largo (from *Xerxes*) (Handel)
- Sheep May Safely Graze (from *Cantata No. 208*) (Bach)

Processionals and Recessionals

- Arrival of the Queen of Sheba (Sinfonia from *Solomon*) (Handel)
- March (from *Occasional Oratorio*) (Handel)
- Prelude (from *Te Deum*) (Charpentier)
- Trumpet Tune in C (Purcell)
- Trumpet Tune in D (Purcell)
- Trumpet Voluntary (The Prince of Denmark's March) (Clarke)
- Trumpet Voluntary (Stanley)



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