

Motueka Anglican Parish Marriage Preparation Guide

The Marriage Service

A New Zealand Prayer Book

He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa p780ff



Content	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
<p>Introduction</p>	<p>We have come together in the presence of God to witness and celebrate the marriage of Bride and Groom, and to pray God's blessing upon them now and in the years ahead.</p> <p>Marriage is a gift of God our Creator, whose intention is that husband and wife should be united in heart, body and mind. In their union they fulfil their love for each other.</p> <p>Marriage is given to provide the stability necessary for family life, so that children may be cared for lovingly and grow to full maturity.</p> <p>Marriage is a way of life to be upheld and honoured. No one should enter into it lightly. It involves a serious and life-long commitment to each other's good in a union of strength, sympathy and delight.</p>	<p>We have come together to ask God's blessing on Bride and Groom, to witness their marriage and to bring them our love and support.</p> <p>I ask you now to pray for them; and not just to pray today or only in this place but to pray in your hearts continually and over the years.</p> <p>It is praying, their praying and ours, which will fulfil God's purposes for Bride and Groom. Praying is an outlook, a sustained energy, which creates a marriage and makes love and forgiveness life-long. Eternal love never fails; our love needs to forgive and be forgiven. As we pray and forgive we minister reconciliation. Those who marry are God's ministers to each other of reconciliation and change. As they grow together, wife and husband foster one another's strengths, they provide each other with the reassurance and love needed to overcome their weaknesses.</p> <p>From this beginning God draws them now to a completely new life. They become awake to each other, aware of each other, sensitive to each other's needs.</p>	<p>We have gathered to celebrate the marriage of Bride & Groom. Marriage is the promise of hope between a man and a woman who love each other, who trust that love, and who wish to share their future together.</p> <p>It enables two separate people to share their desires, longings, dreams and memories, and to help each other through their uncertainties.</p> <p>It provides the encouragement to risk more and thus to gain more.</p> <p>In marriage, husband and wife belong together, providing mutual support and a stability in which their children may grow.</p> <p>Here in the presence of God, we recognise and affirm their relationship as they begin their married life in the community.</p>	<p>We have gathered to witness the promises of Bride and Groom in marriage; to share with them in their happiness and in their hopes for the future.</p> <p>Marriage involves caring and giving. It involves learning to share one's life with another person, forgiving as Christ forgives; enjoying the love and meaning, which can be found together. It involves facing together whatever adversity may arise.</p> <p>Here before God, Bride and Groom wish to pledge their love for each other and their desire to spend their life together</p>

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Opening Greeting	Bride and Groom, we rejoice with you; we are glad to join with you in the celebration of your marriage, to witness your vows, to pray with you and to wish you joy in your life together.	Bride & Groom, you are welcome. Pray that God will uphold and cheer your life together, that your promises be honoured, your words true, now and in time to come.	Bride and Groom, we welcome you. We are glad to join with you in the celebration of your marriage, to witness your vows, to pray with you, and to wish you joy in your life together. And so we pray together:	Bride and Groom, we welcome you. We are glad to join with you in the celebration of your marriage, to witness your vows, to pray with you, and to wish you joy in your life together. And so we pray together:
Opening Prayer	God our Creator, be with us now as we celebrate the marriage of Bride and Groom. Give them your blessing. Grant them happiness and long life together, and help us to support them with our love. Amen		Loving God, touch us with an awareness of your presence in all the world around us. Awaken in us a sense of wonder that you have created us in love. As we celebrate the marriage of Bride and Groom, deepen our love for those close to us, and for those who, though strangers, need our concern. Help Bride and Groom as they commit themselves to each other, and grant us all a heightened sense of joy in life, because we share this moment with them. Amen.	God of love, we thank you for the gift of marriage and for the joys it brings. Bless us as we share in this wedding. We thank you for the love which has brought Bride and Groom to each other and for their desire to share that love for the rest of their lives. Amen.
Hymn - Russell can help you choose hymns, songs and other music. We have files of wedding hymns (to well-known tunes) we can email to you, or copy for you.				
Reading - Bible reading ; read by friend or relative (second reading later, if you like). We have files of Bible readings and other wedding readings we can email to you, or copy for you.				

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<p>Declarations</p>	<p>Groom, of your own free choice will you take Bride to be your wife? Groom: I will.</p> <p>Will you love her, comfort her, honour her and keep her, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others Be faithful to her as long as you both shall live? Groom: I will.</p> <p>Bride, of your own free choice will you take Groom to be your husband? Bride: I will.</p> <p>Will you love him, comfort him, honour him and keep him, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others Be faithful to him as long as you both shall live? Bride: I will.</p>	<p>For our part we ask you to make your public declaration.</p> <p>Groom: I love Bride, and I want to marry her.</p> <p>Bride: I love Groom, and I want to marry him.</p>	<p>Groom do you love and trust Bride and want to be her husband? Groom: I do.</p> <p>Will you stand by her no matter what happens, respecting her as a person, understanding her needs and enjoying her love until death parts you? Groom: I will.</p> <p>Bride do you love and trust Groom and want to be his wife? Bride: I do.</p> <p>Will you stand by him no matter what happens, respecting him as a person, understanding his needs and enjoying his love until death parts you? Bride: I will.</p>	<p>Groom will you take Bride to be your wife? Will you share her joys and ease her burdens? Will you be honest with her, and be faithful to her always, as long as you both live? Groom: I will, with the help of God.</p> <p>Bride will you take Groom to be your husband? Will you share his joys and ease his burdens? Will you be honest with him, and be faithful to him always, as long as you both live? Bride: I will, with the help of God.</p>

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Affirmation of Support by Parents (& children) (optional)	As Bride and Groom enter a new life together, will you, their parents, give them your blessing? Parents: May God bless you both.	Parents, will you accept and support this marriage? Parents: We will. May God bless you both. Children, will you help Bride and Groom in their marriage? Children: I will.	In your new relationship with Bride and Groom, do you, as their parents, pledge your loving support? Parents: We do.	Parents, are you willing to strengthen this marriage by upholding Bride and Groom with your love and concern? Parents: We are.
Affirmation of Support by Family & Friends	You, who are family and friends, have come to witness this exchange of vows. Will you do all in your power to support this marriage now And in the years ahead? All: We Will.		Will you, their family and friends, do all in your power to support this couple now, and in the years ahead? All: We will.	Will you, their family and friends, do all in your power to support this couple now, and in the years ahead? All: We will.
Family Candles lit (optional); music / 2nd reading (optional)				
Prayer before Vows	Eternal God, creator and sustainer of us all, give your grace to Bride and Groom. In the years ahead may they be faithful to the vows they make this day, and in the strength of the Holy Spirit grow together in the love, joy and peace of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen	May God's grace surround you and keep you all, and so we pray The peace of God which is beyond our understanding keep guard over your thoughts and hearts. God keep you friends with one another, forgiving one another in kindness. May you follow Jesus in happiness or suffering. May hope keep you joyful. Stand firm in trouble. Be strong in prayer. May God make you compassionate and brave. Above all, may there always be love to bind and keep you whole.		

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Marriage Vows	<p>I Groom, take you, Bride, to be my 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 Until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.</p> <p>I Bride, take you, Groom, to be my 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 Until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.</p>	<p>Priest: Jesus, do for Bride & Groom as you did in Cana of Galilee. Take the old water, their busy individual lives, and turn them into gospel wine.</p> <p>Bride, I take you to be my wife. All that I have I offer you; what you have to give I gladly receive; wherever you go I will go. You are my love. God keep me true to you always and you to me.</p> <p>Groom, I take you to be my husband. All that I have I offer you; what you have to give I gladly receive; wherever you go I will go. You are my love. God keep me true to you always and you to me.</p>	<p>Bride, I take you to be my wife, to be with you whatever happens to us. in prosperity and in hardship, in health and in sickness, in sorrow and in joy. I will love, protect and serve you as long as we live. This I vow before God.</p> <p>Groom, I take you to be my husband, to be with you whatever happens to us. in prosperity and in hardship, in health and in sickness, in sorrow and in joy. I will love, protect and serve you as long as we live. This I vow before God.</p>	<p>Bride, today I take you to be my wife. Whatever life may bring, I will love and care for you always.</p> <p>Groom, today I take you to be my husband. Whatever life may bring, I will love and care for you always.</p>
Blessing of Rings	<p>Most holy God, bless these rings. May Bride and Groom who wear them be faithful to each other and continue bound together in love to their lives' end, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.</p>	<p>Christ our light, encircle these rings with your blessing, to show the love of Bride & Groom. Bind them together and keep them in your love eternally.</p>	<p>Eternal God, bless these rings as symbols of the love and trust between Bride and Groom.</p>	<p>Let these rings say to all that your commitment is deep and life-long.</p>
Exchanging Rings	<p>Bride, I give you this ring As a symbol of our marriage. With my body I honour you, And all I have I share with you.</p> <p>Groom, I give you this ring As a symbol of our marriage. With my body I honour you, And all I have I share with you.</p>	<p>Bride, this ring I give to you, with my body I honour you. God make me your true husband in the spirit of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Groom, this ring I give to you, with my body I honour you. God make me your true wife in the spirit of Jesus Christ.</p>	<p>Bride, this ring is a token of my faithfulness and love, and a symbol that all I have I share with you.</p> <p>Groom, this ring is a token of my faithfulness and love, and a symbol that all I have I share with you.</p>	<p>Bride, let this ring symbolise our one life together.</p> <p>Groom, let this ring symbolise our one life together.</p>

Content	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Pronouncement	<p>Bride and Groom have given themselves to each other with solemn vows, and have declared their marriage, by joining hands and the giving and receiving of rings. They are now husband and wife.</p> <p>Let no one come between those whom God has joined together.</p>		<p>Bride and Groom, you have declared the love you have for each other and your hopes for the future. You have made promises to each other, and have symbolised them by joining hands and giving rings. You are now husband and wife.</p>	<p>We have witnessed the promises made by Bride and Groom, and now recognise them as husband and wife</p>
Blessing of the Couple & Prayer for Guidance	<p>The power of God keep you, the love of God be in your life and work together, the grace of God strengthen your love that it may endure forever. Amen</p>	<p>God so join you together that nothing shall ever part you. Blessed are you, heavenly Father, you give joy to bridegroom and bride. Blessed are you, Jesus our Redeemer, you have brought new life to us all. Blessed are you, Holy Spirit of God, you bring us together in love.</p> <p>Blessed are you Creator, Saviour and Giver of life, one God to be praised for ever. Amen. Bride and Groom may Christ's love purify your love for each other, Christ's humanity keep you sensitive and practical. May the Light of the world illuminate your way ahead, the Bread of heaven nourish you, the true Vine enliven you. May Christ be the beginning of a new, fulfilled and blessed life, and Christ the end.</p>	<p>Bride and Groom, may God give you light to guide you and love to unite you, so that you may be faithful to the vows you have made this day, and live together in joy and peace till your lives end. Amen</p>	<p>Bride and Groom, you have committed yourselves to one another in love, joy and tenderness. Become one. Fulfil your promises. And may God's grace be with you for ever. Amen</p>

Lighting Marriage Candle; music / Second Reading / Hymn (all optional)

Prayers – choose from these 4 (led by celebrant or friend / relative)

<p>From 1 – with responses Gracious God we pray for Bride & Groom and give thanks that you have brought them together in marriage Spirit of God bless this marriage We thank you for the love and care which, through their parents, has guided Bride & Groom to maturity, and prepared them for this commitment Spirit of God bless this marriage Help them to be wise and loving parents to grow together in faithfulness and honesty, in mutual support and patience Spirit of God bless this marriage Make their life together a sign of your love in this broken world; may forgiveness heal injury and joy triumph over sorrow Spirit of God bless this marriage Be with them in their work and renew them in their leisure. May they welcome into their home both friends and strangers and so reflect Christ's love for all people. Spirit of God bless this marriage In all their future together may they enjoy each other's lives and grow through the love they share Spirit of God bless this marriage</p>	<p>Form 1 Gracious God we pray for Bride and Groom and give thanks that you have brought them together in marriage We thank you for the love and care which, through their parents, has guided Bride and Groom to maturity, and prepared them for this commitment Help them to be wise and loving parents to grow together in faithfulness and honesty, in mutual support and patience Make their life together a sign of your love in this broken world; may forgiveness heal injury and joy triumph over sorrow. Be with them in their work and renew them in their leisure. May they welcome into their home both friends and strangers and so reflect Christ's love for all people. In all their future together may they enjoy each other's lives and grow through the love they share. Amen.</p>	<p>Form 2 Eternal God, creator and sustainer of us all, we praise you for all the ways in which your love comes into our lives, and for all the joys that can come to men and women through marriage Today we especially pray for Bride and Groom as they begin their married life. With them we thank you for the love and care of their parents which has guided them and prepared them for this commitment. Give them strength to be loyal and faithful to each other, and to support each other throughout their life, that they may bear each other's burdens and share each other's joys. Help them to be honest and patient with each other, to be wise and loving parents and to welcome both friends and strangers into their home. In all their future together may they enjoy each other and grow through the love they share, until, at the end of this life, you receive us all into your eternal kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen</p>	<p>Form 3 Holy creator Spirit, you made us and you change us. Let your loving wisdom work with Bride and Groom, Deepening and developing their desire, Moulding and freeing their generosity. May they achieve stability And sweetness in their daily lives until their lives shall end. May they train, support and inspire the children With whom you entrust them To enjoy your blessing and to serve your world. Holy Spirit of God, you know our strength, And for our frailty you have compassion. Be with Bride and Groom In all they undertake. And grant that we their friends, With all who become their friends, May sense and understand their needs And help as opportunity demands. Amen.</p>	<p>Form 4 Loving Spirit, grant to Bride and Groom that in giving and forgiving they may receive from each other lasting joy. Bind them together with love. Grant that they may always take delight in each other, and each remain the other's heart's desire. Bind them together with love. May they reach such trust and confidence in each other as shall keep them from unnecessary distress. May they find courage to meet the heartaches, disappointments and agonies life can bring. Be their rock, their fortress, for they put their trust in you Help them to look beyond their own family and their own concerns to see the world, suffering and struggling, the world you have given us to share with one another. Open their eyes and their hearts. Give them grace to accept that they are mortal, to face the possibility of death and the separation it must bring. Jesus, you are resurrection, you are life.</p>
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<p>Lord's Prayer</p>	<p>Current version Our Father in heaven Hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, On earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins As we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial And deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen</p>	<p>Traditional version: Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.</p>		
<p>Closing Blessing</p>	<p><u>Version one</u> All praise and glory to you most gracious God for in the beginning you created us women and men. Grant your blessing then, we pray, to Bride and Groom so that in marriage they may be a source of blessing to each other and to all and live together in holy love until their lives' end. Amen</p>	<p><u>Version two</u> All praise and blessing to you, God of love Creator of the universe, maker of man and woman in your likeness, source of blessing for married life. All praise to you for you have created courtship and marriage, Joy and gladness, feasting and laughter, pleasure and delight. May your blessing come in full upon Bride and Groom May they know your presence in their joys and in their sorrows. May they reach old age in the company of friends And come at last to your eternal kingdom. Amen</p>		
<p>Signing the Register (2 witnesses required; music)</p>				
<p>Wedding Party process out (music)</p>				

Use this sheet to plan your service – put a **tick** or **YES** in the option you are choosing for each section of the Wedding Service. You should have a tick for each of the sections, though hymns and some other elements are optional. There can be some flexibility over the order of events – consult with your priest. This service must be checked and approved by your priest before printing any orders of service.



CONTENT	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Music to come in				
Welcome and Introduction				
Opening Greeting				
Opening Prayer				
Hymn (optional)				
Declarations				
Affirmation of Support (Parents) (Children) (optional)				
Affirmation of Support (Family & Friends)				
Family Candles lit (optional)				
Bible reading				
2 nd Reading (optional)				
Sermon				
Prayer before Vows				
Marriage Vows				
Blessing of Rings				
Exchanging Rings				
Pronouncement				
Blessing of Couple & Prayer for Guidance				
Light Marriage Candle (optional)				
Hymn (optional)				
Prayers – choose from Form 1-4	Form 1 (with responses or without?)	Form 2	Form 3	Form 4 (with responses)
Lord’s Prayer	Current or	Traditional		
Closing Blessing	Version one or	Version two		
Signing the Register	2 witnesses: Music during:			
Music to go out				