**Catholic Wedding ceremony without Mass**

**Format this text to your taste, replacing BN with bride's name; GN with groom's name.**

1. [**Introductory Rites**](#m1) **Entrance Hymn & Greeting -- Light Candles -- Penitential Rite -- Gloria -- Prayer for the Couple.**
2. [**Liturgy of the Word**](#m2) **Old Testament -- Psalm -- New Testament --.Alleluia -- Gospel -- Homily**
3. [**The Marriage Vows**](#m3) **Address -- Declaration of Consent -- Blessing of the Rings -- Candle Ceremony -- Prayers of the Faithful**
4. [**Concluding Rites**](#m4) **The Lord's Prayer -- The Nuptial Blessing -- The Sign of Peace -- Final Blessings -- Signing the Register**

**Introductory Rites**

Entrance hymn:  ("Hymn title")

The Priest greets and welcomes the bride and bridegroom at the altar. He questions them about their freedom to marry, then if the couple are using candle ritual, they light the two outside ones now. OPTIONAL

**Liturgical Greeting**  
Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
All:   Amen.  
Priest: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
All:   And with your spirit.

**Penitential Rite**  
Priest invites the congregation to repent of all sins…, then  
Lord, have mercy - Lord, have mercy   
Christ , have mercy - Christ , have mercy   
Lord, have mercy - Lord, have mercy

**Collect**  
Priest:  Let us pray.  
And all pray in silence for a while.

Priest: O God, who in creating the human race willed that man and wife   
should be one, join, we pray, in a bond of inseparable love  
these your servants who are to be united in the covenant of Marriage,  
so that, as you make their love fruitful,  
they may become, by your grace, witnesses to charity itself.  
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.

**Liturgy of the Word**

**First Reading**  
[*Insert here the selected text of the first reading*](http://www.together.ie/oldtestament.php)  
Reader: The word of the Lord.  
All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm  (usually sung, otherwise said, with a Responsorial)  
[*Insert here the selected text of the Psalm*](http://www.together.ie/responsorialpsalm.php)

**Second Reading**  
[*Insert here the selected text of the second reading*](http://www.together.ie/epistles.php)  
Reader: The word of the Lord.  
All: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia  (usually sung)

**Gospel**  
Priest: The Lord be with you.  
All: And with your spirit.  
Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to N..  
All: Glory to you, O Lord.  
[*Insert here the selected text of the Gospel reading*](http://www.together.ie/gospel.php)  
Priest:  The Gospel of the Lord.  
All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Homily**  
The celebrant or an invited speaker speaks on the blessings and vocation of marriage.

**The Marriage Vows**

All stand, including the bride and bridegroom, whom the Priest now addresses:

**ADDRESS**  
  
Priest: Dear children of God, you have come to this church so that the Lord may seal your love in the presence of the priest 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.  
Priest: Is this your understanding of marriage?  
**Both:  It is.**

**DECLARATION OF CONSENT**  
The Priest then invites the couple to declare their consent  
Priest: I invite you then to declare before God and his Church your consent to become husband and wife.  
**Groom:**  N., do you consent to be my wife?  
**Bride:** I do. Do you, N., consent to be my husband?  
**Groom:**  I do. I take you as my wife and I give myself to you as your husband.  
**Bride:** I take you as my husband and I give myself to you as your wife.  
*They then hold hands and say together:*   
**to love each other truly**  
**for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer,**   
**in sickness and in health,**  
**till death do us part**, (or all the days of our life)

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

**BLESSING OF RINGS**  
The Priest says this blessing:   
Priest: Lord, bless  N. and N. 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.

The bridegroom places the bride's ring on her finger.  
Groom: **N., 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.**

The bride may place a ring on the bridegroom's finger.   
Bride: N., **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.**

**THE CANDLE RITUAL**  
The bride and groom now light the centre candle together. Sometimes it is followed by the prayer of the newly married couple.

**PRAYER OF THE NEWLY MARRIED COUPLE (OPTIONAL)**  
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 your 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. Amen.

A hymn may be sung, then:

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**  
Four or five of these intercessions or similar may be used.

1. For N. and N., that the Lord, who has brought them to this happy day will keep them forever in fidelity and love. Lord, hear us.  
All: Lord, graciously hear us.

2. For the parents of N. and N., for their friends and all who have helped them to become husband and wife. Lord, hear us.  
All: Lord, graciously hear us.

3. That the Lord may bless the world with his peace and the protection of his love. Lord, hear us.  
All: Lord, graciously hear us.  
  
4. For our community and our families, who welcome Christ into their lives; that they learn to receive him in the poor and suffering people of this world. Lord, hear us.  
All: Lord, graciously hear us.

5. For the faithful departed and especially for those whom we, ourselves, have loved, that God will one day unite us again in the joys of our eternal home. Lord, hear us.  
All: Lord, graciously hear us.

6. For married couples everywhere, that their lives will be an example to the world of unity, fidelity and love. Lord, hear us.  
All: Lord, graciously hear us.

7. For those who mourn, while we are rejoicing, that in their suffering and loneliness they may experience the strength of God's support. Lord, hear us.  
All: Lord, graciously hear us.

**Music may be played here**

**Concluding Rites**

**The Lord's Prayer**

*The Priest introduces the Lord's Prayer, then all 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.**

**The Nuptial Blessing**

*(The couple kneel for this blessing)  
Priest invites all all to pray in silence for a while.  
Then the Priest, with hands extended over the bride and bridegroom, continues:*

Priest: Let us humbly invoke by our prayers, dear brothers and sisters,  
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 Sacrament of Matrimony.  
  
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 Sacrament of Matrimony.

May your abundant blessing, Lord,  
come down upon this bride, (Bride).,.,  
and upon (Groom)., 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 adorn their family with children  
and enrich the Church.

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;  
let them pray to you in the holy assembly  
and bear witness to you in the world,  
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

**The sign of peace**

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
All:  And with your spirit.  
Priest: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.  
Then the bride and bridegroom and all present offer one another a sign expressing peace, communion and charity.

Hymn for peace and harmony

**OPTIONAL: POEM OR A REFLECTIVE PIECE**  
Then the Priest says the Prayer after Communion:

**The Final Blessings**

*Before blessing the people, the Priest gives the bride and bridegroom a special blessing. The Priest, w  
W ith hands extended over the bride and bridegroom, he says:*

Priest: May God the eternal Father  
keep you of one heart in love for one another,  
that the peace of Christ may dwell in you  
and abide always in your home.  
All:  Amen.

Priest: May you be blessed in your children,  
have solace in your friends  
and enjoy true peace with everyone.  
All:  Amen.

Priest: May you be witnesses in the world to God's charity,   
so that the afflicted and needy who have known your kindness  
may one day receive you thankfully  
into the eternal dwelling of God.  
All:  Amen.

And he blesses all the people, adding:   
Priest: And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here,  
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.  
All:  Amen.

**The couple sign the marriage registration form**, **while Music is played/sung**

**Recessional**