

The Marriage of

Bride

And

Groom

Introduction (prior to Bride's arrival):

Good afternoon everyone, our lovely bride is about to join us. Before she does, can I please ask everyone to ensure that their mobile phones are switched off? Also Bride and Groom are happy for you to post any photos you take today on social media, provided of course that Bride looks fantastic! We will get started very shortly but in the meantime please feel free to talk amongst yourselves.

Please gather together for the arrival of our gorgeous bride, Bride and her children.

Good afternoon again. My name is Meg Marshall and it gives me great pleasure to be here as today's celebrant at the picturesque Byblos.

Today we have come together to witness the joining of two lives, specifically of Groom and Bride, better known to us all as simply Groom and Bride. For them, out of the routine of ordinary life, the extraordinary has happened. From a friendship their feelings grew for each other and they fell in love.

We are gathered here, not to witness the beginning of what will be, but rather what already is! We do not create this marriage, because we cannot. We can and do, however, celebrate with Bride and Groom the wondrous and joyful occurrence that has already taken place in their lives, and the commitment they make today.

They are delighted that you, their closest family and friends can be here today to celebrate, witness, laugh, sing, eat, dance and generally be happy that these two have found each other at this stage in their lives.

Family is the most important part of both Groom and Bride's lives. Today they not only make commitments to love, honour and cherish to other but also to nurture and support their blended family.

Groom proposed to Bride while on holiday in Cambodia, at the precise spot where the Hindus believe it is the centre of the Universe right at the very top of Angkor Wat, – it is a fitting reflection of how they feel about one another and of their coming together as one today. One of the memories that they have from that trip was seeing the small rock formations near the temples put together by the Cambodians as a symbol for their family. This thought stuck with Groom and Bride and they would like to replicate this today. As such, can their children step forwards with their rocks?

You have each brought a rock from a place that is meaningful to you. Each of these rocks represents each of you. They are each unique with their own colours, shapes and sizes. They all come from different places and have different stories to tell. Some have rough patches and some have smooth patches. Some will fit together perfectly and others may need to rub against each other for awhile to find a happy settling place. And of course the same could be said for family – there will be great happy times and the difficult or

rocky times. However the formation you create together both as a family and with your rocks will always be far greater than the one person or rock alone.

Family creates rock formation

Thankyou.

Groom and Bride's wish for today was for a ceremony that reflected who they were as a couple –informal, light-hearted, relaxed and full of fun. So without further ado, lets move into the formalities.

I am duly authorised by law to solemnize marriages according to law.

Before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of these witnesses, I am to remind you of the solemn and binding nature of the relationship into which you are about to enter.

Marriage according to law in Australia is the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others voluntarily entered into for life.

Bride and Groom, you have known each other from the first glance of acquaintance to this point of commitment. At some point, you decided to marry. From that moment of yes to this moment of yes, indeed, you have been making promises and agreements in an informal way. All those conversations that were held riding in a car or over a meal or during long walks -

all those sentences that began with "When we're married" and continued with "I will and you will and we will" - those late night talks that included "someday and somehow and maybe"- and all those promises that are unspoken matters of the heart.

All these common things, and more, are the real process of a wedding. The symbolic vows that you are about to make are a way of saying to one another, "You know all those things we've promised and hoped and dreamed- well, I meant it all, every word."

Look at one another and remember this moment in time. Before this moment you have been many things to one another- acquaintance, friend, companion, lover, dancing partner, and even teacher, for you have learned much from one another over these last number of years.

Now you shall say a few words that take you across a threshold of life, and things will never quite be the same between you. For after these vows, you shall say to the world, this- is my husband, this- is my wife

Groom please repeat after me:

Bride, I offer myself to you as a partner in life and in return I marry you with my eyes wide open. I have seen the best of you and the worst of you and I choose both. I come to this marriage with my full heart, mind and soul. This is not the end of a search but rather the beginning of a new adventure. So saying, I Groom, pledge in front of these family and friends to take you Bride as my lawful wife.

Bride please repeat after me:

Groom, I offer myself to you as a partner in life and in return I marry you with my eyes wide open. I have seen the best of you and the worst of you and I choose both. I come to this marriage with my full heart, mind and soul. This is not the end of a search but rather the beginning of a new adventure. So saying, I Bride, pledge in front of these family and friends to take you Groom as my lawful husband.

Ringbearer, can you please step forward with the rings.

Groom please repeat after me:

Bride, with this ring I wed you and promise my love always

Bride please repeat after me:

Groom, with this ring I wed you and promise my love always

It now gives me great pleasure to announce by the power vested in me by the Commonwealth of Australia, that you are husband and wife. Groom you may kiss your beautiful bride!

The Kiss

We are going to take a short pause in the ceremony so that we can get all the official non romantic documents signed. Please feel free to entertain yourself for a moment and we will be back with you in just a few moments.

Could the sisters of the bride and groom please come forward?

Document Signing

Bride and Groom, as I present you with your marriage certificate, I wish you every happiness together and thank you for allowing me to part of such a special day.

Bride and Groom would love for a group photo with everyone on the balcony so can you please make your way in that direction at the end of the ceremony. This will be followed by family photos so if family could please stay close by that would be great. After that, we can officially get the party started!

So without any further ado, please join me in congratulating the newly married couple, Bride and Groom!!!!



*Ceremony Performed by Meg Marshall and Raise Your Glass
Ceremonies*