



13 February, 2022

WORLD DAY OF MARRIAGE

(This Prayer Service could be held in a family at home or among the BCC/ SCC of the Parish)

HYMN: 123 – ‘Father, we love you, we worship and adore you’. (*Joyful Celebration*) or any other.

OPENING PRAYER: Heavenly father, we are gathered as a Family/ Community in your name, to thank You for Your abiding love that binds us together. As we worship together, we pray you to deepen our faith and love of you and for one another.

INTRODUCTION: (*Leader or head of the Family*)

Like the good seed that is choked by thorns in the parable of the sower, good marriages can be choked by the cares and worries of everyday life. World Day of Marriage gives us a chance to clear those troubles away. Christian marriage has its foundation in the promise of life-long, faithful and fruitful love between husband and wife. In good times and in bad, in sickness and health, married love gives an exceptional witness to the fact that love has a language, and that language is the gift of self. Spouses live and learn this, daily and hand it on to their children. The home is the school of love, where we learn to counter selfishness with self-giving, and rejection with acceptance. No marriage and family are perfect. The key is in constantly striving to love, taking the risk to love, every single day. Such love always bears fruit, even if we don't immediately see its results.

POPE FRANCIS SPEAKS: (*Amoris Laetitia*, 315)

“The Lord’s presence dwells in real and concrete families, with all their daily troubles and struggles, joys and hopes. Living in a family makes it hard for us to feign or lie; we cannot hide behind a mask. If that authenticity is inspired by love, then the Lord reigns there, with his joy and his peace. The spirituality of family love is made up of thousands of small but real gestures. In that variety of gifts and encounters which deepen communion, God has his dwelling place”.

SCRIPTURE READING: John 2: 1-11

REFLECTION: Mary brought to Jesus a small problem, and I love how he provided far more than required. This is our lavish, loving Lord. Mary could have asked for a specific result – that the guests would leave early, that a fresh supply of wine would be discovered behind some cloaks, that everyone would suddenly become teetotal. Instead, she left the choice of solution with Jesus, safe in the knowledge that he would sort it. So, we don't need to beat ourselves up if we cannot in full faith pray for a miraculous healing. If God has put that on your heart, then go for it, and know that our mighty Lord is more than able. But if God has not put that on your heart, then do not feel that you are a disappointing failure for praying differently. Maybe that is not what God wants you to be asking. We cannot pretend before God. He would far rather have honest mustard-seed faith than cardboard cut-out mountain faith. It is good to pray with sure faith. It is also good to pray in the darkness, when we do not know how to pray even when we can see no possible way through. In these times, we can pray with David, "In you, Lord my God, I put my trust ... Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long." (Ps 25:1, 4-5) (*Brief moments of silent self - examination and mutual offering of forgiveness...*)

(*Suggestion: Couples could sing or listen to the song; 'I accept you from the hands of my God' by Glen & Teresa*)

Ch: I accept You from the hands of my
God
You are God's gift to me, a beautiful gift
This gift of love, God has given me
I'm sorry I caused You pain
I'm sorry I offended You

May God wipe those tears from your eyes
May the God heal the hurt within You
From this day we live in love
together in the love of our God
You are precious to me, you're my guide
In your joys and your grieves, I'm with
You.

PRAYER FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Almighty and Eternal God, you blessed the union of married couples

so that they may reflect the union of Christ with his Church;

look with kindness on them, and strengthen their bond of love so that,
with their children, they may always rejoice in the gift of your blessing.

We ask your blessings especially for couples, who are facing problems,
give them the grace to forgive and heal their marriages with the gift of
your merciful love. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS:

RESPONSE: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all couples and families of the world: that the advances in technology and science may not diminish but rather enhance our understanding of the mystery of human love expressed in the loving union of man and woman. **R/-**

For all married couples: that like Abraham they may learn to leave behind their certainties, comfort zones and securities and set out for a land where as couples, they will experience the two of them become one in loving communion with Jesus present in their marriage. **R/-**

For those contemplating marriage: that they be open to life and lovingly accept the gift of a child as they participate in the creative work of God who is always life-giving. **R/-**

For married couples in a strained relationship: that they be blessed with the grace of forgiveness and healing through the presence of Jesus in their marriage enabling them to turn their ordinariness and brokenness into the new wine of renewed joy. **R/-**

For those who have gone before us and inspired us by their witness of married love: that they along with Mary and Joseph and all the saints continue to intercede for us and call upon God's blessing for us. **R/-**

CONCLUDING PRAYER: O God, who in creating the human race, willed that man and wife should be one, keep, we pray, in a bond of inseparable love those who are united in the covenant of Marriage, so that, as you make their love fruitful, they may become, by your grace, witnesses to charity itself. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord Amen.

(Suggestion for closing hymn: Sing or listen to 'The Servant Song' by Richard Gillard)

THE SERVANT SONG

Will you let me be your servant?
Let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I may have the grace
To let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey.
We are trav'lers on the road.
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ light for you
In the night-time of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you,
Speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping.
When you laugh, I'll laugh with you.

I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we've seen this journey through

When we sing to God in heaven,
We shall find such harmony,
Borne of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony.

**-Commission for Liturgy
Archdiocese of Bombay.**
<https://liturgycentrebandra.org>