

***Celebrating 150 years of weddings
at the Cathedral of St Stephen***



***Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass
Saturday 30 September 2023***

***Celebrant
Archbishop Mark Coleridge***

God, who created hearts to love,
Show'ring all blessings from above,
Alleluia, alleluia!
Give these, who come to you with praise,
Peace, love and laughter all their days.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus, at Cana, gave a sign,
Turning the water into wine:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Sign that continues as he said:
Love, living, risen from the dead.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Spirit of God, be at their side:
Wisdom and comfort, guardian, guide;
Alleluia, alleluia!
Make of their hearts a resting place,
In every trial, gentle grace.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Collect

Let us pray.
O God, almighty Father,
for the sake of the good works they have done
through their long life together,
look kindly on these couples
(with the children they have brought to life and faith)
and, as you sealed the beginnings of their love
by a wonderful Sacrament,
so bless their fruitful old age.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Colossians 3:12-17

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 127

A. Gregory Murray OSB

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May the Lord bless and pro- tect us all the
days of our lives.

Gospel Acclamation

Dom Gregory Murray OSB

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia

*God is love,
let us love one another as he has loved us.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘It is not those who say to me, “Lord, Lord”, who will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the person who does the will of my Father in heaven.

‘Therefore, everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a sensible man who built his house on rock. Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew and hurled themselves against the house, and it did not fall: it was founded on rock. But everyone who listens to these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a stupid man who built his house on sand. Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew and struck that house, and it fell; and what a fall it had!’

Jesus had now finished what he wanted to say, and his teaching made a deep impression on the people because he taught them with authority, and not like their own scribes.

The Gospel of the Lord

All **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily

The Archbishop

RENEWAL OF WEDDING VOWS

The Archbishop

Brothers and sisters,
this holy Cathedral stands as a witness to Divine love and grace, and across generations, couples have gathered here promising to love and honour, to respect and nurture one another in mutual fidelity, and to seek the grace of God and the accompaniment of community.

In sacred memory, we hold before God all who have pledged their loving commitment here at the Cathedral of St. Stephen over 150 years. In particular today, we ask for God's blessing upon those here celebrating their Golden wedding anniversary. Let us recall the day when they came together to ask the Lord to seal and strengthen their love.

Christ has abundantly blessed their married love. He first consecrated them in baptism and then he enriched and strengthened them by a special sacrament so that they could fulfil the calling of marriage in mutual and lasting fidelity.

And so, in the presence of the Church, we now thank God for these couples who are celebrating fifty or more years of marriage.

Couples celebrating 50 or more years of marriage are invited to stand.

The Archbishop

My dear friends,
through your commitment to marriage
you have revealed the mystery of Christ present in his
body. Through your fidelity to each other and your
service to family and community you have been light for
the world. Through your forgiveness and compassion
you have encouraged us in the ways of God.
So I ask you this day, are you willing to continue this
journey, committed to each other, your families and
communities, being the light of Christ for us?

Couples We are

Couples are invited to face each other and join hands

The Archbishop

Are you willing to promise again to each other
your love and fidelity and to commit yourselves to the
future, with all its hopes and disappointments,
its successes and failures, its pleasures and pains,
its joys and sorrows?

Couples We are

The Archbishop

And are you, all gathered here with these couples, willing to offer support and encouragement as they continue in joy their lives together.

All **We are**

All couples who have been married in the Cathedral are invited to stand.

Those physically present and those joining through the livestream are invited to stand and lay hands on the couples as a sign of blessing.

The Archbishop

Bow down for the blessing.

God of the Covenant, ancient and new,
out of Infinite Love, You bring all Creation into being
and with gracious care you draw all you have made back to
yourself.

You have created us to live in Communion with You,
the human family, and creation itself.

Your desire for creative love is fulfilled in the bonds of marriage
and family life.

In the intimacy of fruitful relationship, we share in your life-
giving desire to create and nurture a full and flourishing human
life.

In this sacred space, generations have come to honour your
sacred promises to us, and enter into a family covenant of grace
and love, trusting in your providential presence and sure
support.

Today, in this anniversary year of this Cathedral, we give thanks
for your gift of the sacrament of marriage and family life, and
seek your renewed blessing of all gathered here.
Send your Spirit afresh upon us, and bless all whom you have
gathered here to be strengthened in a life of love.

Bless those whose long years of friendship, blessing and commitment have spoken to us of your fidelity.

Bless those who continue to grow in their bond of grace and help them know that you accompany them in their every need.

Bless those who have only just begun their journey; help them to trust in your promise to companion with them always.

Bless those who rejoice in your gift of life and love; console those whose hearts know the pain of loss.

Receive with Divine joy the thanksgiving of those who praise you for your blessings; be tender to those whose struggles shroud their hope and faith in your goodness.

May the Holy Spirit, bringer of every good gift and presence of Divine love, renew all here in their vocation as husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, grandfathers and grandmothers and replenish the grace we need to be faithful sharers in your creative goodness.

Through Christ our Lord.

All Amen

General Intercessions

The Archbishop

God is present in the midst of our celebration. In faith, let us now pray for all the people of God, that we may live together in God's love.

Reader: For the Church, the Spouse of Christ, that in its faithfulness to the joy of the Gospel, it may be a true instrument of peace for our world. We pray to the Lord.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

For the couples and families gathered today, that they may continue to know in their life together the height and depth and breadth of Christ's love and the fullness of his life.

We pray to the Lord.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

For all married people that they may daily commit themselves to mutual respect of each other, lightening each others burdens and sharing their joys.

We pray to the Lord.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

For those for whom marriage has ended in separation or divorce, that they may know the compassion of God, and support of family and friends as they rebuild their lives.

We pray to the Lord.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who mourn the passing of loved ones, especially spouses, that they may be comforted with the knowledge that one day we will all live united forever with God.

We pray to the Lord.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

The Archbishop

Gracious God, author of love,
hear our prayers and be with all married people so that their marriage may be a living sacrament of your loving presence in our midst.

We offer you these prayers in the name of Jesus, our true light and love.

Amen.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

Holy Holy

*Mass Shalom
Colin Smith cfc*

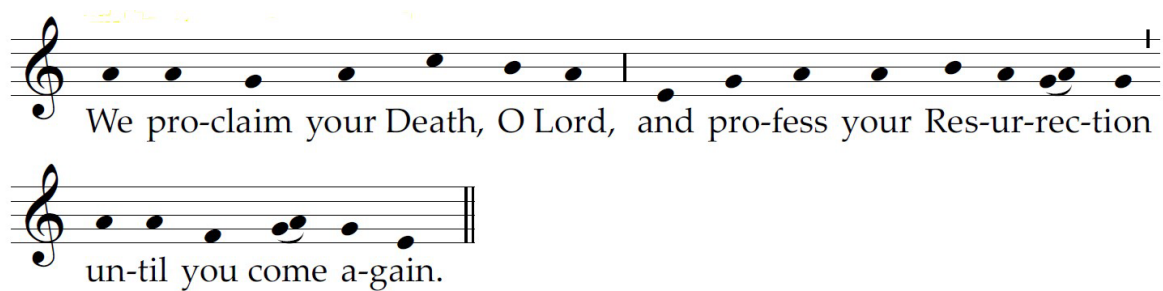
All



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of
hosts. Hea - ven and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless'd is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Memorial Acclamation

ICEL #1



We pro-claim your Death, O Lord, and pro-fess your Res-ur-rec-tion
un-til you come a-gain.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer *Sung*

Lamb of God

Mass Shalom
Colin Smith cfc



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Holy Communion

Communion Solo

Panis Angelicus—Cesar Franck (1822-1890)

Communion Hymn

CWB 139

O perfect Love, all human thought transcending,
Lowly we kneel in prayer before thy throne,
That theirs may be the love which knows no ending,
Whom thou forevermore dost join in one.

O perfect Life, be thou their full assurance,
Of tender charity and steadfast faith,
Of patient hope and quiet, brave endurance,
With childlike trust that fears nor pain, nor death.

Grant them the joy which brightens earthly sorrow,
Grant them the peace which calms all earthly strife,
And to life's day the glorious unknown morrow,
That dawns upon eternal love and life.

Prayer After Communion

Solemn Blessing

The Archbishop Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.
May God, the almighty Father, give you joy.
All **Amen.**

The Archbishop May the only Son of God have mercy on you
and help you in good times and in bad.
All **Amen.**

The Archbishop May the Holy Spirit always fill your hearts
with love.
All **Amen.**

The Archbishop May almighty God bless you,
the + Father , and the + Son,
and the + Holy Spirit.
All **Amen.**

The Archbishop Go in peace glorifying the Lord by your life.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Organ Postlude

*Wedding March from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'
- Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)*

***Please join us for light refreshments
in the Cathedral precinct***



*If you would like a photograph to commemorate
this special occasion please meet our photographer
Alan Edgecomb, Purple Moon Photography
in the foyer of the Francis Rush Centre.*

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