

**Celtic Wedding Ceremony Including  
Irish/Scottish Including:  
Conch or Bell  
Celtic (Irish/Scottish) Vows  
Celtic: (Irish/Scottish Handfasting)  
  
The wedding of (Bride & Groom)**

Officiant: Who comes before me this day to give this woman unto marriage?

Father of the Bride or Escort: (I do or her mother and I do)

Greeting:

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today to celebrate the union in marriage of (Groom) and (Bride), and we welcome those present to this happy occasion with joyous and open hearts. We acknowledge the blessing of having in attendance the parents; family and friends of both Bride and Groom, and your presence enriches this happiness.

Reading:

Through the ceremony of marriage, founded in the earliest days of human co-existence, and partnered in observance to God, and therefore sacred in practice, we affirm and support these two young partners as they embark on life's greatest adventure.

The poet tells us:

“You were born together, and together you shall be forevermore.  
You shall be together when white wings of death scatter your days.  
Aye, you shall be together even in the silent memory of God.  
But let there be spaces in your togetherness,  
And let the winds of the heavens dance between you.  
Love one another but do not make a bond of love;  
Let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of your souls.  
Fill each other's cup but drink not from one cup.  
Give one another of your bread but eat not from the same loaf.  
Sing and dance together and be joyous, but let each one of you be alone,  
even as the strings of a lute are alone though they quiver with the same music.  
Give your hearts, but not into each other's keeping.  
For only the hand of Life can contain your hearts.  
And stand together, yet not too near together:  
For the pillars of the temple stand apart,  
And the oak tree and the cypress grow not in each other's shadow.”

Kahlil Gibran

The key to love is inside us all – it takes time and patience to unlock all the ingredients that will take you to its threshold. It is the continual learning process that demands a lot of work...but the rewards are more than worth the effort – and that is the key to love.

In loving remembrance, and in the age-old tradition of our (Celtic: Irish/Scottish/etc.) ancestors, we now call to mind those gone from among us, that the spirit of their memory may bless this union.

(Recite each name you wish to remember the conch is sounded/bell is rung after each name is recited

**Vows:**

And now, in the presence of these guests and before God, we join this loving couple in Holy Marriage.

**Option 1 :**

**Repeat after Vows:**

\_\_\_\_\_, repeat after me: I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded 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 as long as we both shall live.

\_\_\_\_\_, repeat after me: I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded 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 as long as we both shall live.

**Option 2: Respond "I Do" Vows:**

Groom Do you take bride to be your wedded wife? (I DO)

Do you promise to be a tender faithful husband? (I Do)

Do you promise to Love, Honor and cherish her in sickness and in Health, for richer or poorer, for better or for worse as long as you both shall live? (I Do)

Bride Do You take Groom to be your wedded husband? ( I DO)

Do you promise to be a tender faithful wife? ( I Do)

Do you promise to Love, Honor and cherish him in sickness and in Health, for richer or poorer, for better or for worse as long as you both shall live? (I Do)

**Option 3:** Your own vows

**Option 4: Irish/Scottish Vows:**

**Simple unity Irish wedding vow says:**

**"We swear by peace and love to stand, heart to heart and hand in hand. Mark, O spirit and hear us now, confirming this, our sacred vow." (It is spoken by bride and groom).**

**Rings:**

"The exchange of wedding rings is a visible symbol of an inward bond which unites two loyal hearts in endless love. It is the seal of the vows you two have just made to one another. It symbolizes living together in unity, love and happiness for the rest of your lives.

\_\_\_\_\_ please place the ring on Brides left hand and repeat after me:

A: I give you this ring as a symbol of my vows, I promise to love you today tomorrow always

B: I give you this ring that I am bound to you always through my love, with my soul and all of my heart

C: I give you this ring as a sign of my love that I have chosen you above all else with this ring I thee wed

May this covenant of two hearts in love be everlasting.”

### **Handfasting Ritual with Six Cords (Optional)**

#### **(Handfasting is a Celtic Ritual You May have seen this in the movie Braveheart in the scene in the woods/forest)**

Know now before you go further, that since your lives have crossed you has formed ties between each other. As you seek to enter this noble state of matrimony, you should strive to make real, the ideals which give meaning to both this ceremony and the institution of marriage. The promises made today and the ties that are bound here greatly strengthen your union; they will cross the years and lives of your growth. Do you still seek to enter this ceremony?

Yes. We seek to enter.

I bid you to look into each other's eyes.

Groom, will you share in Bride's pain and seek to alleviate it? I will.

Bride, will you share in Groom's pain and seek to alleviate it? I will.

And so the binding is made. Please join you hands (in a figure 8 position). The first cord is placed on the bride and groom's hand.

Groom, will you share in Bride's laughter and look for the brightness and the positive in her? I will.

Bride, will you share in Groom's laughter and look for the brightness and positive in him? I will.

And so the binding is made. The second cord is placed on the bride and groom's hands.

Groom, will you share in Bride's burdens so that your spirits may grow in this union? I will.

Bride, will you share in Groom's burdens so that your spirits may grow in this union? I will.

And so the binding is made. The third cord is placed on the hands.

Groom, will you share in Bride's dreams? I will.

Bride, will you share in Groom's dreams? I will.

And so the binding is made. The fourth cord is placed on the hands.

Groom, will you take the heat of anger and use it to temper the strength of this union? I will.

Bride, will you take the heat of anger and use it to temper the strength of this union? I will.

And so the binding is made. The fifth cord is placed on the hands.

Groom, will you honor Bride as an equal in this union? I will.

Bride, will you honor Groom as an equal in this union? I will.

And so the binding is made. The sixth cord is placed on the hands.

Tie the cords together.

The knots of this binding are not formed by these cords buy instead by your vows. Whether

this union will last or break is in your hands based on your communication, love, honor and trust of one another.  
The cords are then removed.

### **Blessing/Closing**

#### **Irish Blessings**

**Sample A:** May the road rise to meet you, May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your home, The rains fall soft upon your fields. And the light of friendship guide your paths together, And until we meet again, May you see your children's children. May you be poor in misfortune, Rich in blessings. May you know nothing but happiness from this day forward. May green be the grass you walk on. May blue be the skies above you, May pure be the joys that surround you,  
May true be the hearts that love you. And when eternity (can use God here) beckons, at the end of a life heaped high with love, May you know the hand of a friend was always near. And, today, may the Spirit of Love find a dwelling place in your hearts.

**Sample B:** "By the power that Christ brought from heaven, mayst thou love me. As the Sun follows its course, mayst thou follow me. As light to the eye, as bread to the hungry, as joy to the heart, may the presence with me, oh one that I love, till death comes to part us asunder."

#### **Sample C: Traditional Closing**

"Treat yourselves and each other with respect, and remind yourselves often of what brought you together. Give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness and kindness that your connection deserves. When frustration, difficulty and fear assail your relationship – as they threaten all relationships at one time or another – remember to focus on what is right between you, not only the part which seems wrong. In this way, you can ride out the storms when clouds hide the face of the sun in your lives – remembering that even if you lose sight of it for a moment, the sun is still there. And if each of you takes responsibility for the quality of your life together, it will be marked by abundance and delight."

By virtue of the power vested in me by ordination and the given authority of the Congregation of Mankind, I hereby proclaim you, (Groom and Bride), to be Husband and Wife.

"May God bless you and keep you, and because His countenance to shine upon you and be gracious to you, and for all the days of your live, May God Grant you Peace. Amen"

I present to you Mr.& Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_.

**(The conch is sounded).**