

world,  
that unity may overcome  
estrangement,  
forgiveness heal injury,  
and joy overcome despair.

**All** Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

[Bestow on them, if it is your  
will,  
the heritage and gift of children  
and the grace to bring them up  
to know you, to love you and to  
serve you.

**All** Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.]**

Give them such fulfilment of  
their affection  
that they may reach out in love  
and concern for others.

**All** Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

Grant that all those who have  
witnessed these vows  
may find their lives strengthened  
and their loyalties confirmed.

**All** Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

Grant that the bonds of our  
common humanity  
by which all your children are  
united to one another  
may be so transformed by your  
grace  
that your will may be done on  
earth as it is in heaven;  
where, O Father, with your Son  
and the Holy Spirit,  
you live and reign in perfect  
unity, now and for ever.

**All** **Amen.**

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**St. Mary's, Wistaston**

## The Marriage Service: Additional Prayers

**The following Prayer will be used in the service - please choose  
2 or 3 more from the prayers that follow and note there  
numbers here.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we lift up our hearts to you  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Through him you have made a covenant of  
grace with your people  
by the outpouring of your Holy Spirit.

We praise you for the gift of marriage  
in which the love of husband and wife  
reveals your purposes of love for the world.

We thank you today for N and N,  
for leading them to each other  
in friendship and love, commitment and trust,  
and for bringing them here for the blessing of their marriage.

Living God, by the presence of your Holy Spirit,  
may they know the risen Christ to be with them now,  
as they celebrate this covenant together.  
May their lives be a witness to your saving love  
in this troubled world.

As you pour out your love,  
may they grow together in your sight,  
and each be to the other  
a companion in joy, a comfort in sorrow and a strength in need.

As you blessed the earthly home at Nazareth  
with the presence of your Son,  
may their home be a place of security and peace.  
[Bless this couple with the gift and care of children,  
that they may grow up to know and love you in your Son.]

And bring us all at the last  
to that great marriage banquet of your Son  
in our home in heaven,  
where, with all your saints and angels,  
in the glory of your presence,  
we will for ever praise you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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*All* **Amen.**

## **Additional Prayers...**

### **Thanksgiving**

#### **For the sharing of love...**

1. Father of all,  
in Jesus Christ you open to us  
the treasures of your kingdom;  
guide us by your Holy Spirit  
that we may receive your redeeming grace  
and reflect the perfect unity of your love,  
for you live and reign  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

2. God of love,  
we thank you for the gift of marriage and for the joys it brings.  
Bless us as we share in this wedding.  
We thank you for the love  
which has brought N and N to each other  
and for their desire to share that  
love for the rest of their lives;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

### **Spiritual growth**

#### **3. For the home**

Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home:  
reign in the home of these your servants as Lord and King;  
give them grace to minister to others  
as you have ministered to them,  
and grant that by deed and word  
they may be witnesses of your saving love  
to those among whom they live;  
for the sake of your holy name.

love as they care for their family.

Lord, in your mercy

*All* **hear our prayer.]**

May the lonely, the bereaved, and  
all who suffer want or anxiety,  
be defended by you, O Lord.

Lord, in your mercy

*All* **hear our prayer.**

May those whose lives are today  
brought together  
be given wisdom, patience and  
courage  
to serve one another in Christ's  
name.

Lord, in your mercy

*All* **hear our prayer.**

May friends and family gathered  
here,  
and those separated by distance,  
be strengthened and blessed this  
day.

Lord, in your mercy

*All* **hear our prayer.**

We praise you, merciful God,  
for those who have died in the  
faith of Christ.

May we be strengthened by their  
example.

Almighty God, you have  
promised to hear our prayers.

*All* **Grant that what we have  
asked in faith  
we may by your grace  
receive,  
through Jesus Christ our  
Lord. Amen.**

26. Eternal God,  
creator and preserver of all life

and giver of grace;  
look with favour on the  
world you have made,  
and especially on this man  
and this woman  
whom you in holy marriage  
have made one.

Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

Give them wisdom and  
devotion in ordering their  
common life,  
that each may be to the  
other

a strength in need, a  
counsellor in perplexity,  
a comfort in sorrow and a  
companion in joy.

Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

Grant that their wills may be  
so knit together in your will,  
that they may grow together  
in love and peace  
with one another and with  
you all the days of their life.

Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

Give them grace when they  
hurt one another  
to recognize and  
acknowledge their fault  
and to seek each other's  
forgiveness

and your pardon and peace.  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

Make their life together a  
sign of Christ's love  
in this broken and disordered

and grows with giving.  
 Lord, hear us:  
**All Lord, graciously hear us.**

Let peace spring from their  
 faithfulness to each other  
 and flow deeper with the passing  
 years. **All 25.**  
 Lord, hear us:  
**All Lord, graciously hear us.**

Give them patience with their  
 failures  
 and persistence with their  
 hopes.  
 Lord, hear us:  
**All Lord, graciously hear us.**

May their kindness, born of a  
 gracious heart,  
 be shown to others in a  
 generous spirit.  
 Lord, hear us:  
**All Lord, graciously hear us.**

Let goodness flower with  
 forgiveness  
 and be the fruit of their married  
 life.  
 Lord, hear us:  
**All Lord, graciously hear us.**

In gentleness let them be tender  
 with each other's dreams  
 and healing of each other's  
 wounds.  
 Lord, hear us:  
**All Lord, graciously hear us.**

Gracious God,  
 accept our prayers for *N* and *N*,  
 that as their love ripens  
 and their marriage matures  
 they may reap the harvest of the  
 Spirit, **All**

rejoice in your gifts  
 and reflect your glory in  
 Christ Jesus our Lord.  
**Amen.**

Almighty God, look  
 graciously on the world  
 which you have made  
 and for which your Son gave  
 his life.  
 Bless all whom you make one  
 flesh in marriage.  
 May their life together be a  
 sign of your love to this  
 broken world,  
 so that unity may overcome  
 estrangement,  
 forgiveness heal guilt, and joy  
 overcome despair.  
 Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

May *N* and *N* so live together  
 that the strength of their love  
 may reflect your love  
 and enrich our common life.  
 Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

May they be gentle and  
 patient, ready to trust each  
 other,  
 and, when they fail, willing to  
 recognize and acknowledge  
 their fault  
 and to give and receive  
 forgiveness.  
 Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

[May *N* and *N* be blessed  
 with the gift of children.  
 Fill them with wisdom and

**All Amen.**

**4. For the Holy Spirit**  
 Almighty God,  
 you send your Holy Spirit  
 to be the life and light of all your people.  
 Open the hearts of these your servants to the riches of his grace,  
 that they may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit  
 in love and joy and peace;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**All Amen.**

**5. For grace to live well**  
 Faithful God,  
 giver of all good things,  
 give *N* and *N* wisdom and devotion  
 in the ordering of their life together.  
 May they dwell together in love and peace  
 all the days of their life,  
 seeking one another's welfare,  
 bearing one another's burdens,  
 and sharing one another's joys;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**All Amen.**

**6. For discipleship**  
 Eternal God,  
 without your grace nothing is strong, nothing is sure.  
 Strengthen *N* and *N* with patience, kindness, gentleness,  
 and all other gifts of the Holy Spirit,  
 so that they may fulfil the vows they have made.  
 Keep them faithful to each other and to you.  
 Fill them with such love and joy  
 that they may build a home of peace and welcome.  
 Make their life together a sign of Christ's love  
 in this broken world,  
 that unity may overcome estrangement,  
 forgiveness heal guilt,  
 and joy conquer despair;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

**7. For a glimpse of eternal love**

Eternal God, our maker and redeemer,  
as you once enriched the wedding at Cana  
when your Son turned water into wine,  
so by his presence now bring your joy to this day.  
May we drink deeply from your boundless love  
and know in our hearts the delights of your Holy Spirit.  
As we honour the union of a man and a woman,  
let the love we celebrate today be a sign of your eternal love,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*All* **Amen.**

**8. For the gift of love**

God of wonder and of joy:  
grace comes from you,  
and you alone are the source of life and love.  
Without you, we cannot please you;  
without your love, our deeds are worth nothing.  
Send your Holy Spirit,  
and pour into our hearts  
that most excellent gift of love,  
that we may worship you now  
with thankful hearts  
and serve you always with willing minds;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**9. For marriage as a sign to the world**

Almighty God, in whom we live and move and have our being,  
look graciously upon the world which you have made  
and for which your Son gave his life,  
and especially on all whom you make to be one flesh  
in holy marriage.  
May their lives together be a sign of your love to this broken world,  
so that unity may overcome estrangement,  
forgiveness heal guilt,  
and joy overcome despair;

*All* **Amen.**

**22. For the families of the couple**

Gracious Lord,  
bless the parents and families of *N* and *N*  
that they may grow in love and friendship.  
Grant that, as they have witnessed these vows today,  
they may find their lives enriched and strengthened  
and their loyalties confirmed;  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

**23. For the support of friends**

Holy Spirit of God,  
you know our strength  
and have compassion on our frailty.  
Be with *N* and *N*  
in all they undertake.  
And grant that we their friends,  
with all who become their friends,  
may sense and understand their needs;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

**Longer Prayers and Litanies**

**24.** Eternal God,  
creator and redeemer,  
from whom comes every good and perfect gift,  
fill *N* and *N* with the riches of your grace  
and breathe into their marriage  
the strength of your holy and life-giving Spirit.  
Lord, hear us:

*All* **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Send upon them the gift of love  
that puts no limit to its faith and forbearance.  
Lord, hear us:

*All* **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Sow in their lives the joy that comes from sharing

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

### **Children, other Family Members and Friends**

#### **19. For children and the home**

Heavenly Father,  
maker of all things,  
you enable us to share in your work of creation.  
Bless this couple in the gift and care of children,  
that their home may be a place of love, security and truth,  
and their children grow up to know and love you in your Son  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

#### **20. For children and family**

Lord of life,  
you shape us in your image,  
and by your gracious gift  
the human family is increased.  
Grant to *N* and *N* the blessing of children.  
Fill them with wisdom and love  
as they care for their family,  
so that they and their children  
may know and love you;  
through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

#### **21. For an existing family**

God of all grace and goodness,  
we thank you for this new family,  
and for everything parents and children have to share;  
by your Spirit of peace draw them together  
and help them to be true friends to one another.  
Let your love surround them  
and your care protect them,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

### **Faithfulness, Joy, Love, Forgiveness and Healing**

#### **10. For the joy of loving**

God our creator,  
we thank you for your gift of sexual love  
by which husband and wife  
may delight in each other  
and share with you the joy of creating new life.  
By your grace may *N* and *N* remain lovers,  
rejoicing in your goodness all their days.

*All* **Amen.**

#### **11. For the healing of memory**

Loving God,  
you are merciful and forgiving.  
Grant that those who are suffering the hurts of the past  
may experience your generous love.  
Heal their memories, comfort them,  
and send them all from here  
renewed and hopeful;  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

#### **12. For the joy of companionship**

All praise and blessing to you, God of love,  
creator of the universe,  
maker of man and woman in your likeness,  
source of blessing for married life.  
All praise to you, for you have created  
courtship and marriage,  
joy and gladness,  
feasting and laughter,  
pleasure and delight.  
May your blessing come in full upon *N* and *N*.  
May they know your presence  
in their joys and in their sorrows.  
May they reach old age in the company of friends  
and come at last to your eternal kingdom;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

**13. For grace and delight**

God of love, ever gracious and kind,  
we pray for *N* and *N* as they make the promises of marriage.

Let them know you  
as the God of mercy and new beginnings,  
who forgives our failures and renews our hope.

May the grace of Christ  
be poured into their wedding  
for celebration and for joy.

God of love, ever present and faithful,  
may *N* and *N* know that their marriage is your delight and will.

May the promises they make govern their life together,  
as your presence surrounds them,  
and your Spirit strengthens and guides them;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

**For faithfulness**

**14.** God of all grace,  
friend and companion,  
look in favour on *N* and *N*,  
and all who are made one in marriage.

In your love deepen their love  
and strengthen their wills  
to keep the promises they have made,  
that they may continue  
in life-long faithfulness to each other;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

**15.** Gracious God,  
as you have brought *N* and *N* together in love,  
enable them through the power of your Holy Spirit  
to make and keep the solemn promises of marriage;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

**16.** O gracious and ever-living God,  
male and female you have created us in your image:  
Look mercifully upon this man and this woman  
who come to you seeking your blessing;  
assist them with your grace,  
that with true fidelity and steadfast love  
they may honour and keep the promises and vows they make;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord  
who is alive and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

**17. For faithfulness and peace**

O God of love,  
look mercifully upon *N* and *N* in the new life  
which they begin together this day.  
Unite them evermore in your love.  
Keep them faithful to the vows they have made one to the other;  
strengthen them with every good gift;  
and let your peace be with them,  
now and always;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

**18 For daily following Christ**

Heavenly Father,  
we thank you that in our earthly lives  
you speak to us of your eternal life:  
we pray that through their marriage  
*N* and *N* may know you more clearly,  
love you more dearly  
and follow you more nearly,  
day by day;