



the wedding man

@elmirweddingphoto

## THE CEREMONY

The wedding ceremony is the ritual (and emotional) focal point of your big day. So, to help you get your heads round exactly how yours might go, here is a blueprint/script of a classic ceremony. This example is purely orientational, but should help to illustrate the possible order of your ceremony and familiarise you with its key moments and the different elements it might contain. The ultimate aim is to personalise the ceremony as much as possible between us over the months ahead. Quick heads-up: the duration of a typical ceremony, based on this template, is approx. 20-25 minutes.

**NB:** It is my firm belief that **EVERYONE** has the right to get married, so in the interests of inclusiveness I have used generic terms like Happy Couple, Partner and Spouse throughout. Naturally, in your ceremony I will refer to you by your own names and use the gender specific terminology you identify with.

# *The Happy Couple*

date :: location

Ladies and gentlemen, benvinguts, bienvenidos, and welcome. My name is James and I am honoured to preside over The Happy Couple's wedding ceremony. It is here in the amazing surroundings of lovely location that The Happy Couple have decided to celebrate one of the happiest moments of their lives by making a public commitment to one another surrounded by those closest to them...

I would like to thank everyone, on behalf of The Happy Couple and their families for coming here today to celebrate the love and marriage of these two people. I know that they are truly touched by how many people have chosen to be here today on their big day...

:: *affectionate recap of The Happy Couple's romantic journey* ::

## *Reading 1*

Now I would like to introduce family/friend who will be reading: ... by ...

*:: affectionate recap of The Happy Couple's romantic journey (Contd) ::*

## *Reading 2*

Now I would like to introduce family/friend who will be reading: ... by ...

## *Commitment*

Today, Happy Couple, in getting married you are both making a public and, most importantly, a private commitment to each other. It is a commitment to love and respect each other. It is a commitment to always treat each other as an equal. It is a commitment to offer support as partners whilst continuing to grow as individuals. It is a commitment to achieve the life you imagine for yourselves through kindness, understanding and love so that, no matter what life may bring you, will share it and overcome it together, committed to each other, for the rest of your lives.

## *The Vows*

Now The Happy Couple will say their vows.

*:: vows written by, or chosen by, the Happy Couple ::*

## *The Rings*

Now The Happy Couple will exchange rings, the ring bringing the material symbol of their everlasting love; a sign of the infinite bond between two people.

*:: if applicable, the Happy Couple will say separate vows here ::*

With this ring I, Partner, take you, Partner, to be my Spouse, to love and to cherish from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, for as long as we both shall live....

## *Vow of Support*

Now, I am going to ask everyone here to make a vow of support for Happy Couple. I will ask a simple question and ask you to respond - in the affirmative!

**James:**

*The marriage of Happy Couple unites two families and many friends. Do all of you gathered here today promise to bless them with all your love and support for all the days of their lives?*

**Guests:**

*We do.*

## *The Declaration*

Partner & Partner, you have declared before all of us that you will live together in marriage. You have made special promises to each other, which have been symbolized by the giving and taking both of vows and of rings. Partner & Partner by the confidence that you have entrusted to me and as a consequence of the love you share and the promises you have made to each other I now pronounce you Spouse & Spouse.