

God wants to marry you

Some people do not believe in marriage. They say it is just a piece of paper. Some have been hurt through marriage. Family may have divorced or separated when you were young. There can be domestic violence and abuse under the cover of marriage. Love can fade or disappear in marriage. There can be unfaithfulness in marriage. Spouses can feel trapped and only stay together for the children. People may have divorced and remarried. People may have divorced but live with someone else unmarried, or married civilly. Many people bereave the loss of a spouse. Some people want to get married, but don't ever meet the right person. Some people have same-sex attraction and feel left out not being able to marry in the Catholic Church. There are many single parents left alone by a spouse to care for many children. There can be other difficulties people have about marriage. Marriage can be challenging, traumatic, and complex in many ways.

I cannot address and solve every marriage or relationship scenario, or social issue – unless you want a 4 hour homily! I want to acknowledge your marital situation. I want to affirm the love you give whatever your marital situation.

In today's bible readings, God reveals the truth that, no matter your marital situation, in Jesus, God proposes to marry you! The prophet Isaiah, in another translation in the 1st reading, says "Like a young man taking a virgin as his bride, He who formed you will marry you." Ephesians 5:31-32 confirms: "... a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church." In other words, your desire for love can only be satisfied by God's love, whatever your marital status.

Urgent love – "When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.'" Guests would have seen having "no wine" as a sign that the marriage may run out of love. Is there someone here who has ran out of love:

in a marriage, relationship, looking for love, accepted that you won't find love, or love for family or friends? When love has gone, Mary intercedes to Jesus urgently for us. If love has run out of your heart, ask Mary's intercession. Pray a decade or the full rosary each day, for **urgent love**.

Transformation – “Jesus said to the servants, ‘Fill the jars with water’... the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine...” The water in the stone jars were used for purifying people's hands. In other words, the water was dirty. Jesus turned dirty, not clean, water into wine. Someone may have shamed you growing up, abused you, or bullied you. Someone here may feel or believe the lie that you are fundamentally dirty or unclean. Believing this lie, you may think, speak, or behave shamefully sometimes. Jesus transforms dirty water into wine. He transforms your shame to love! In Jesus, reject the lie that you are unclean. In Jesus, claim the truth that you are clean, in God's eyes.

Love to the end – ““Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.”” Many people want instant gratification, they want everything now. In doing so, they can treat loved ones more like objects. Jesus loves you, and the church, self sacrificially. Christian love is self-sacrificial. Self-sacrificial love lasts to the end. Don't use your spouse, partner, or bf/gf for instant physical or emotional pleasure. Love like Jesus. Love self-sacrificially. Statistics show that Christian married couples who love self-sacrificially like Jesus, enjoy more **love to the end**.¹

If you are single and able, have you ever thought about marriage? Pray and actively seek to meet the one God wants you to meet.

¹ https://ifstudies.org/blog/marital-bliss-new-evidence-that-marriage-promotes-flourishing-?utm_source=chatgpt.com
[accessed 16.1.25]

If you are married, what would it mean to love them even more with Jesus' self-sacrificial love?

If you are divorced or separated, what would it look like to be reconciled – even if you should not get back together?

If you are divorced or separated, but believe the marriage may not have been valid (to young, for eg), there are sometimes ways forward. Please, speak to me if that is so.

If you are bereaved, pray for your spouse in heaven. They are with their one true spouse now.

If you are intentionally single, pray for God to show you how to share His love generously.

Mary told the servant to “do whatever [Jesus] tells you.” Similarly, do whatever Jesus tells you. Say “I do” to God's proposal of marriage now. Give your life to God now. Receive the love that comes **urgently when love has run out**, that **transforms, that lasts to the end**.

Prayer

Lord, thank you that you “who forms me wants to marry me”.

Mary, intercede for me for love to come urgently **when love has run out**.

Jesus, I reject the lie that I am dirty. I declare the truth that in you I am **transformed** and made pure.

Jesus, help me to love self-sacrificially, and give me **love to the end**.

Restore all marriages in this parish, city, nation, and the world, in Jesus' name, amen!