

THE MARRIAGE OF
FRANCIS JAMES SHEPHERD
AND
RACHEL ELIZABETH FISKEN



SATURDAY 28TH AUGUST 2021, 12 NOON

**THE CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN,
THE LACE MARKET, NOTTINGHAM**

OFFICIANT:
THE REV BENJAMIN T RABJOHNS
Priest in Charge, the Parish of Penrhiwceiber, Matthewstown and Ynysboeth

WELCOME

Thank you so much for joining us on our wedding day, especially if you have travelled from a great distance. Welcome also to those who could not be here and are tuning in to the live audio broadcast of this service.

Please read the information below as you prepare.

ACCESSIBILITY

A loop system is in operation – those with hearing aids should switch theirs to the ‘T’ position. Toilets can be found in the North aisle of the church (follow the signs).

PREPARING

As you prepare for the service, please be sensitive to the needs of others who may wish either to listen to the organ, or to engage in a time of private prayer.

MOBILE DEVICES & CAMERAS

Please do switch off all mobile electronic devices – we would like to ask you respectfully **not** to take photographs or make recordings (video or audio) of any kind before or during the service. Official photographs from before and after the service will be available in due course.

DONATING TO THE CHURCH

St Mary’s is a place dear to both of our hearts, but now more than ever it relies on donations to continue to function. No collection will be taken, but if you feel moved to give, please use the contactless donation point by the South Porch (preferred), or deposit cash in the large glass donation box. Please make use of the yellow Gift Aid envelopes.

MUSIC & BELLS

The choir is directed by John Keys (Director of Music), and the organ is played by Andrew Abbott & John Keys. If you intend to sing the hymn, please consider wearing a mask to help protect others. The church bells are rung after the service by St Mary’s own team of ringers.

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MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Chorale Prelude on ‘Rhosymedre’

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Allegro giocoso (7 Improvisations, Op. 150)

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)

Prélude (24 Pièces en style libre, Op. 31)

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

THE ENTRANCE OF THE BRIDE

Please stand as the bride enters, during which the choir sing

A Hymn for St. Cecilia

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Text: Ursula Vaughan Williams (1911-2007)

THE WELCOME

The minister welcomes the people using these words

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you

All and also with you.

God is love, and those who live in love live in God
and God lives in them.

1 John 4.16

All 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.

Please sit for the hymn-anthem.

ANTHEM*There's a wideness in God's mercy***Maurice Bevan (1921-2006)**

There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in his justice
which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgement given.

For the love of God is broader
than the measure of our mind,
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

But we make his love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify his strictness
with a zeal he would not own.

There is plentiful redemption
through the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.

There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that upper home of bliss.

If our love were but more simple,
we should take him at his word;
and our lives would be all gladness
in the joy of Christ our Lord.

Words: Frederick William Faber (1814-63)

PREFACE

We have come together in the presence of God, to witness the marriage of Francis and Rachel, to ask his blessing on them, and to share in their joy. Our Lord Jesus Christ was himself a guest at a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and through his Spirit he is with us now.

The Bible teaches us that marriage is a gift of God in creation and a means of his grace, a holy mystery in which man and woman become one flesh. It is God's purpose that, as husband and wife give themselves to each other in love throughout their lives, they shall be united in that love as Christ is united with his Church.

Marriage is given, that husband and wife may comfort and help each other, living faithfully together in need and in plenty, in sorrow and in joy. It is given, that with delight and tenderness they may know each other in love, and, through the joy of their bodily union, may strengthen the union of their hearts and lives. It is given as the foundation of family life in which children may be born and nurtured in accordance with God's will, to his praise and glory.

Therefore, on this their wedding day we pray with them, that, strengthened and guided by God, they may fulfil his purpose for the whole of their earthly life together.

In marriage husband and wife belong to one another, and they begin a new life together in the community. It is a way of life that all should honour; and it must not be undertaken carelessly, lightly, or selfishly, but reverently, responsibly, and after serious thought.

This is the way of life, created and hallowed by God, that Francis and Rachel are now to begin. They will each give their consent to the other; they will join hands and exchange solemn vows, and in token of this they will each give and receive a ring.

THE DECLARATIONS

The minister says to the congregation

First, I am required to ask anyone present who knows a reason why these persons may not lawfully marry, to declare it now.

The minister says to the couple

The vows you are about to take are to be made in the presence of God, who is judge of all and knows all the secrets of our hearts; therefore if either of you knows a reason why you may not lawfully marry, you must declare it now.

The minister says to the bridegroom

Francis, will you take Rachel to be your wife?
Will you love her, comfort her, honour and protect her,
and, forsaking all others,
be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

He answers

I will.

The minister says to the bride

Rachel, will you take Francis to be your husband?
Will you love him, comfort him, honour and protect him,
and, forsaking all others,
be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

She answers

I will.

The minister says to the congregation

Will you, the families and friends of Francis and Rachel,
support and uphold them in their marriage
now and in the years to come?

All **We will.**

THE COLLECT

The minister invites the people to pray, silence is kept and the minister says

God our Father,
from the beginning
you have blessed creation with abundant life.
Pour out your blessings upon Francis and Rachel,
that they may be joined in mutual love and companionship,
in holiness and commitment to each other.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Please remain seated.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Song of Solomon 2.10-13; 8.6-7

My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land; the fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm: for love is strong as death; jealousy is cruel as the grave: the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it: if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would utterly be contemned.

Text: King James Version

This is the word of the Lord

All **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 121

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills:
from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh even from the Lord:
who hath made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved:
and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.
Behold, he that keepeth Israel:
shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord himself is thy keeper:
the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand;
So that the sun shall not burn thee by day:
neither the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil:
yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.
The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in:
from this time forth for evermore.

Please stand

Glory be to the Father:
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

*Words: The Book of Common Prayer (1662)
Music: Herbert Howells (1892-1983)*

Please sit

EPISTLE

Colossians 3.12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the word of the Lord

All **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *by The Reverend B T Rabjohns, Priest in Charge of the parish of Penrhiwceiber, Matthewstown and Ynysboeth*

The minister says an opening prayer, and all sit.

ANTHEM **Salve regina, FP 110** **Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)**

Salve Regina, Mater Misericordiae,
Vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve.
Ad te clamamus, exsules filii Evae,
Ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes,
In hac lacrymarum valle.

Eja ergo Advocata nostra,
Illos tuos misericordes oculos ad nos converte
Et Jesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui,
Nobis, post hoc exilium, ostende,
O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria.

*Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of mercy,
[Hail] our life, our sweetness and our hope!
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve,
to thee do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.*

*Turn, then, most gracious advocate,
thine eyes of mercy toward us,
and after this, our exile,
show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.*

*Text: Anon., possibly 13th Century
Translation: CPDL*

- THE MARRIAGE -

The couple stand before the minister

THE VOWS

The minister introduces the vows

Francis and Rachel, I now invite you to join hands and make your vows,
in the presence of God and his people.

The bride and bridegroom face each other.

The bridegroom takes the bride's right hand in his, and says

I, Francis, take you, Rachel,
to be my 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,
till death us do part;
according to God's holy law.
In the presence of God I make this vow.

They loose hands. The bride takes the bridegroom's right hand in hers, and says

I, Rachel, take you, Francis,
to be my 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,
till death us do part;
according to God's holy law.
In the presence of God I make this vow.

They loose hands.

THE GIVING OF RINGS

The ring-bearer stands and places the rings on the minister's service order.

The minister receives the rings, and says this prayer

Heavenly Father, source of everlasting love,
revealed to us in Jesus Christ
and poured into our hearts through your Holy Spirit;
that love which many waters cannot quench, neither the floods drown;
that love which is patient and kind, enduring all things without end;

by your blessing, let these rings be to Francis and Rachel
symbols to remind them of the covenant made this day
through your grace in the love of your Son
and in the power of your Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The bridegroom places the ring on the fourth finger of the bride's left hand, and, holding it there, says

Rachel, I give you this ring
as a sign of our marriage.
With my body I honour you,
all that I am I give to you,
and all that I have I share with you,
within the love of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

They loose hands and the bride places a ring on the fourth finger of the bridegroom's left hand, and, holding it there, says

Francis, I give you this ring
as a sign of our marriage.
With my body I honour you,
all that I am I give to you,
and all that I have I share with you,
within the love of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

THE PROCLAMATION

The minister addresses the people

In the presence of God, and before this congregation,
Francis and Rachel have given their consent
and made their marriage vows to each other.

They have declared their marriage by the joining of hands
and by the giving and receiving of rings.

I therefore proclaim that they are husband and wife.

The minister joins their right hands together and says

Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

Silence is kept. The minister and couple process to the high altar.

THE BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE

The husband and wife kneel.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God,
for you have created joy and gladness,
pleasure and delight, love, peace and fellowship.
Pour out the abundance of your blessing
upon Francis and Rachel in their new life together.
Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts
and a crown upon their heads.
Bless them in their work and in their companionship;
awake and asleep,
in joy and in sorrow,
in life and in death.
Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that banquet
where your saints feast for ever in your heavenly home.

We ask this through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The minister says to the couple

God the Father, †
God the Son,
God the Holy Spirit,
bless, preserve and keep you;
the Lord mercifully grant you the riches of his grace,
that you may please him both in body and soul,
and, living together in faith and love,
may receive the blessings of eternal life.

All **Amen.**

REGISTRATION OF THE MARRIAGE

Please remain seated as the couple and witnesses make their way to the Lady Chapel.

During the signing of the marriage document, the following anthem is sung

My eyes for beauty pine

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

My eyes for beauty pine,
My soul for Goddes grace,
No other care nor hope is mine,
To heaven I turn my face.

One splendour thence is shed from all the stars above:
'Tis named when God's name is said,
'Tis love, 'tis heavenly love.

And every gentle heart that burns with true desire,
Is lit from eyes that mirror part of that celestial fire.

Text: Robert Bridges (1844-1930)

PRAYERS

Please remain seated

Eternal God, creator and redeemer,
from whom comes every good and perfect gift,
fill Francis and Rachel 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
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.

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.**

The minister concludes the prayers with these words

Gracious God,
accept our prayers for Francis and Rachel,
that as their love ripens
and their marriage matures
they may reap the harvest of the Spirit,
rejoice in your gifts
and reflect your glory in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Notre Père, O^r. 14

Maurice Duruflé (1902-86)

Notre Père, qui es aux cieux,
que ton nom soit sanctifié,
que ton règne vienne,
que ta volonté soit faite sur la terre comme au ciel.
Donne-nous aujourd'hui notre pain de ce jour.
Pardonne-nous nos offenses,
comme nous pardonnons aussi à ceux qui nous ont offensés.
Et ne nous laisse pas entrer en tentation
mais délivre-nous du Mal.

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.*

Please stand

LAUDATE DOMINUM (Parry)

*At the end of verse 4*

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | <p>O praise ye the Lord!
Praise him in the height;
Rejoice in his word,
Ye angels of light;
Ye heavens adore him
By whom ye were made,
And worship before him,
In brightness arrayed.</p> | 3 | <p>O praise ye the Lord!
All things that give sound;
Each jubilant chord,
Re-echo around;
Loud organs, his glory
Forth tell in deep tone,
And sweet harp, the story
Of what he hath done.</p> |
| 2 | <p>O praise ye the Lord!
Praise him upon earth,
In tuneful accord,
Ye sons of new birth;
Praise him who hath brought you
His grace from above,
Praise him who hath taught you
To sing of his love.</p> | 4 | <p>O praise ye the Lord!
Thanksgiving and song
To him be outpoured
All ages along:
For love in creation,
For heaven restored,
For grace of salvation
O praise ye the Lord!
Amen, Amen.</p> |

*Words: H W Baker (1821-77)**Music: from the anthem 'Hear my words, ye people'
by C Hubert H Parry (1848-1918)*

THE DISMISSAL

The minister says

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love,
defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, † the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Please remain standing until the clergy and bridal party have departed.

You are invited to follow the party outside the West end where there will be the opportunity for the traditional throwing of confetti.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Carillon-sortie

Henri Mulet (1878-1967)

- WORDS OF THANKS -

Weddings such as this require a considerable amount of planning and effort by multiple people. We would therefore like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the following for their particular assistance in preparing this service and the reception which follows:

Diane Illsley	Parish Administrator, Verger
Mandy Isbell	Flowers
John Keys	Director of Music & Organist
Andrew Abbott	Organist

*We would also like to thank in particular our friends in the choir:
Rachel, Caroline, Thea, Zoe, Ruth, David, Jonathan, George & Will
for enriching this service through their singing.*

ABOUT ST MARY'S CHURCH

The Church of St Mary the Virgin is the oldest surviving building in Nottingham, and at least the third church to stand on this site. Referred to in the Domesday Book, the current building was constructed largely between 1386 and 1475, being altered and rebuilt in various ways since, notably between 1726-1761. It was then restored by George Gilbert Scott between 1848 and sometime in the 1860s, though both the Lady Chapel (1912) and the Simpson Memorial Choir Vestry (1940) are examples of later additions. St Mary's is the 11th largest parish church in the UK by internal volume.

As well as ministering to a parish that includes much of the northern half of the city centre, St Mary's is also the civic church, in which is held the annual Legal Service, civic Remembrance Service (which last year was televised) and various carol services, including that of BBC Radio Nottingham. In addition to its civic status St Mary's is the University Church for the University of Nottingham and several schools and organisations hold annual services here.

In recent years St Mary's has become the venue for a wide range of public events and concerts. The church's robed choir is held in great esteem – a combination of fine local singers and a flourishing choral scholarship scheme for those in higher education allows the Choir to maintain the highest standard, singing three choral services per week (Eucharist on Sunday, Evensong on Sunday and Wednesday), as well as a regular schedule of concerts and recordings. Choral services are currently broadcast live via the church website.

More information about the church and its music can be found on the website:

www.stmarysnottingham.org

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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PLEASE TAKE THIS ORDER OF SERVICE AWAY WITH YOU.

