

Pronouncement of Marriage

_____ & _____ ,

you are united and bound together,

body and soul, in a union of love and trust.

Above are the stars and below you the earth.

Like the stars, your love will be a constant source of light.

And like the earth, a firm foundation from which to grow.

(from a Celtic wedding handfasting ceremony, today frequently appearing on wedding planning websites)

As you have consented in this ceremony in the presence of friends and family to be partners for life, I now pronounce you married in the eyes of God and in the eyes of the State, united and bound together, body and soul.

May nothing divide what God has joined together.

[Alternatively: May nothing divide what has been joined together here today.]

_____ & _____ , we pronounce you married!

And to seal this holy and legal covenant of love, you may kiss.

It is my pleasure and honour to introduce to you _____ &
_____, legally married!

***Names:** the couple may choose to be introduced as Mrs & Mrs X, or Mr and Mr Y, or 'The X Family' e.g. The Gumede Family. If they are creating or choosing a new surname, it can be shared at this time. If they are keeping their own maiden names or any previous names, using only first names works well.*

And let all the people clap with joy!

Encourage those gathered to applaud!

Breaking of the glass & the kiss

Adapted from a Jewish wedding ceremony, this would be inserted in the section above.

A glass is wrapped carefully in cloth, so that it can be stomped upon and broken but will not create a dangerous situation.

Suggestion: choose a thin fragile glass that will break easily.

A glass, like the vessel of your love, is fragile and must be protected.

The promises made by you both, like broken glass, are irrevocable.

Protect and shelter your love, treat it gently.

Break the glass!

You may kiss!