

A Secular Wedding With Irish Traditions

Knot Note: Some names and information have been redacted for the couple's privacy

Introduction

Good evening everybody. Welcome to New York. Welcome to the Carlyle, and welcome to the wedding of Groom and Bride. All of you look terrific. My name is Christopher Shelley. I am a New York State Wedding Officiant, a Minister and a Life-Cycle Celebrant. It is my honor to be officiating this wedding. Before we begin, please turn the volume of your phones up as high as possible, so that when somebody gets a phone call during the ceremony we all know whom to blame. Alternatively, please silence your phones. The ceremony is about to begin.

Processional

Please stand to greet the bride

You may be seated, thank you.

Welcome

Welcome everybody. We are thrilled that so many of you could make it here today. One of the wonderful things about a wedding is that it also serves as a kind of multi-family reunion, and it always pleases me at how far people are willing to travel to be here on a day like this, for an event like this, which just goes to show you how important it is to mark these happy transitions in our lives. We have guests here today from far and wide. Feel free to cheer when you hear the name of the place you've traveled from. We have guests here today from as far away as Ireland, from the counties of Cork, Tipperary and Dublin! We have guests from both Washington State and Washington D.C., from Florida, California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York...and New Jersey. Welcome!

And let's wish a happy birthday to our bagpiper, Al Gonzales!

Honor the Departed

Before we begin today, we'd like to acknowledge the spiritual presence of some fine individuals. Groom's parents and Bride's father. We feel their presence with us today, and take joy in the knowledge that they would all be thrilled to see this bride marry this groom with so many admirers in attendance.

Love Story

Bride and Groom are taking a brave step forward in their relationship. Today they will make the ultimate commitment to each other, a commitment which is the ultimate

expression of love. They have decided to commit themselves to one another's hearts, to share in all of life's incredible moments, and to help assist in making each other's dreams realities. That sounds like an awful lot to take seriously, but there's a good reason for it: these two have more fun together than they ever thought would be possible with another human being, and they're smart people. Once you find somebody who makes every single day of your life better, who makes every single day more enjoyable, by golly you have to hold on to that person.

Ring Exchange

Wedding rings are a symbol of commitment and love. The rings are circular, like their love, with no beginning and no end. They represent what has been and what will always be. They are made of solid, sturdy material which is meant to survive years and years of hand-holding, washing dishes, swimming, painting, wood-working, rock climbing, high-fiving, fist-bumping and tender caresses. Couples wear their wedding rings every day as a symbol of their love, and to make all of their single friends jealous.

Who has the rings?

[Groom], you will go first. Please place [Bride]'s ring on the tip of her ring finger and repeat after me.

CELEBRANT/GROOM (repeating)

Bride/I love you/My heart is in this ring/My love is in this ring/I give you this ring/as a symbol of my love/ I promise to be your faithful husband/to love you when the sun shines/and

when the rain falls/in sickness and in health/when you look at this ring/think of me/and remember that I love you always.

CELEBRANT

You may slide the ring all the way onto her finger

Bride, it's your turn.

CELEBRANT/BRIDE (repeating)

Bride/Thank you for my beautiful ring/I love you/My heart is in this ring/My love is in this ring/I give you this ring/as a symbol of my love/ I promise to be your faithful wife/to love you when the sun shines/and when the rain falls/in sickness and in health/when you look at this ring/think of me/and remember that I love you always.

Pronouncement/Kiss

It has been my honor to officiate your ceremony today. And I'm extremely excited and proud to announce that cocktail hour will be served right across the hall in the Versailles

Suite. And now I get to say something you've been looking forward to hearing for a long time. By the powers vested in me by the State of New York, I now pronounce you husband and wife. You may kiss the bride.

By Christopher Shelley, New York State Wedding Officiant and Life-Cycle Celebrant,
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