

## Reflection

Masons, when they start upon a building,  
are careful to test the scaffolding:  
Make sure that all the planks won't slip at busy points,  
secure all ladders, tighten bolted joints.  
And yet all this comes down when the job's done,  
showing off walls of sure and solid stone.  
So, if my dear,  
there sometimes seem to be old bridges  
breaking between  
you and me, never fear.  
We may have let the scaffolds fall,  
confident that we have built our wall

*(Seamus Heaney, 'Scaffolding')*



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**Daily prayers**

A Website of Daily Prayer and Reflection

# Marriage

## Reflections & Prayers

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*"For better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, all the days of our life"*

*(Rite of Marriage)*

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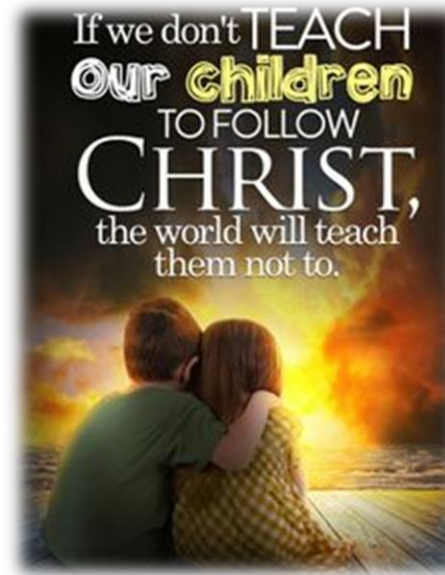
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*To have &  
to hold from this  
day forward*



# Marriage & Children



*“Are you willing to accept with love the children God may send you, and bring them up in accordance with the law of Christ, and his church?”*

*(Rite of Marriage)*

## Prayer to St Gerard for Parenthood

O glorious Saint Gerard, powerful intercessor before God, and wonder worker of our day, we call upon you and seek your help. You who always fulfilled God's will on earth, help me to do God's holy will. Intercede with the Giver of life, from whom all parenthood proceeds, that we may conceive and raise children who will please God in this life, and be heirs to the kingdom of heaven.

Amen.



# Commitment



Marriage is a sacred, lifelong commitment to one another 'through better or worse'.

## Marriage means being in love for the rest of your life

Marriage is love walking hand in hand together. It's laughing with each other about silly little things, and learning to discuss big things with care and tenderness. In marriage, love is trusting each other when you're apart. It's getting over disappointments and hurts, knowing that these are present in all relationships. It's the realization that there is no one else in this world that you'd rather be with than the one you're married to. It's thinking of new things to do together; It's growing old together. Marriage is being in love for the rest of your life.

*(Chris Ardis)*

# Love



St. Paul best describes love in his letters to the Corinthians,

*Love is always patient and kind;*

*it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited;*

*it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful.*

*Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth;*

*it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope,*

*and to endure whatever comes.*

*Love does not come to an end.*

*(St Paul to the Corinthians 13:4-8)*

# Sacrament of Marriage

Marriage is the greatest expression of a couple's love for each other. Through Marriage man and woman are united in Christ.



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*"The two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." – Mark 10:8-9*

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The values and love of Christ are reflected in our unity as man and wife; as St Teresa of Avila said,

*"Christ has no body now, but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, Yours are the feet. Yours are the eyes. You are his Body"*

# Married Couple's Prayer



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Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for this life, the gift of love, and the blessing of our marriage. We give you praise for the joy you've poured into our hearts through this love, the contentment of family, and the happiness of our home. May we always treasure the experience of loving each other in this Holy union. Help us to remain ever committed to our vows, those we made to each other, and to you, Lord. We will need your strength daily Lord, as we live together with the goal of following and serving you. Develop within us the character of your Son, Jesus, that we might love each other with the love he demonstrated – with patience, respect, understanding, honesty, forgiveness and kindness. Let us always be a support to one another – a friend to listen to and encourage, a refuge from the storm, and most importantly, a warrior in prayer. Holy Spirit guide us through the difficult moments of life and comfort us in our grief. May our lives together bring glory to you, our savior, and testify of your love. In Jesus' name. Amen

(Mary Fairchild)