

A 'Simple Wedding Ceremony'

[Longer version]

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Welcome...

Friends, my name is Bernard Morey and I am a civil celebrant duly authorised by the law to solemnise this marriage according to the laws of Australia.

I call upon everyone here present to be a fellow witness with me in this marriage between Jimmy and Cherry. We are here not only to witness their commitment to each other but also to wish them well and every happiness for their life together.

Cherry and Jimmy, the joining of two individual lives in one common purpose is the highest calling to which we as human beings can aspire. Your marriage will require constant attention and conscientious work in order to flourish. But when you make this effort you will be rewarded by many things — the help of a partner, the joy of lifetime love, and the opportunity to learn and grow together.

This lifetime commitment of faithfulness and affection brings with it the responsibility for your partner's spiritual, physical, and emotional well-being. The promises you make today are ones you must keep forever.

At times this will be easy: when life brings you success and abundance, peace and contentment. But there may be times in your lives together when the way is difficult, and then you must remind yourselves of your vows to stand together through adversity and to comfort each other.

Reading

The Most Wonderful of all Things in Life by Sir Hugh Walpole.

The most wonderful of all things in life is the discovery of another human being with whom one's relationship has a growing depth, beauty and joy as the years increase. This inner progressiveness of love between two human beings is a most marvellous thing; it cannot be found by looking for it or by passionately wishing for it. It is a sort of divine accident, and the most wonderful of all things in life.

Marriage declaration

Before you, Jimmy Mak and you, Cherry Chung, are joined together in marriage in my presence and in the presence of these witnesses I must remind you of the solemn and binding nature of the relationship into which you are now about to enter.

Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.

Askings

Jimmy, do you take Cherry to be your wife? Will you commit your life to her, embracing all joys and sorrows, all triumphs and hardships? Will you be there for her when she needs your support?

Jimmy : "I do".

Cherry, do you take Jimmy to be your husband? Will you commit your life to him, embracing all joys and sorrows, all triumphs and hardships? Will you be there for him when she needs your support?

Cherry: "I do"

Vows

[It is a legal requirement that the first two lines (in red) be used as given. The remainder is optional.]

You must now take your solemn marriage vows. Jimmy, would you please these words after me —

I, Jimmy, in the presence of these witnesses

take you, Cherry, to be my wife

To have and to hold from this day forward

For better for worse

For richer or poorer

In sickness and in health

While we both shall live.

Cherry, would you please repeat these words after me —

I, Cherry, in the presence of these witnesses

take you, Jimmy, to be my husband

*To have and to hold from this day forward
For better for worse
For richer or poorer
In sickness and in health
While we both shall live.*

Ring ceremony

These rings are an outward sign of the commitment you wish to confirm and to celebrate. They are symbols of your promise to grow in understanding and in compassion and of your friendship and trust.

Jimmy, take Cherry's ring and as you place the ring on her finger please repeat these words after me—

*Cherry, with this ring I marry you
Take and wear it as a pledge of my love
And as a symbol of all we share.*

Cherry, take Jimmy's ring and as you place the ring on his finger please repeat these words after me—

*Jimmy, with this ring I marry you
Take and wear it as a pledge of my love
And as a symbol of all we share.*

Verse

Love is very patient, very kind. Love knows no jealousy; love makes no parade, gives itself no airs, is never rude, never selfish, never irritated, never resentful, love is never glad when others go wrong. Love is gladdened by goodness, always slow to expose, always eager to believe the best, always hopeful, always patient. Love never disappears.

Reading & Declaration

To conclude your marriage ceremony I will read the poem *Today*. These words acknowledge that you are friends as well as lovers. I will read these lines as you would read them to each other:

Today I marry my friend

The one I have laughed with and cried with

The one I have learned from and shared with

The one I have chosen to support,

Encourage and give myself to through all the days given us to share —

Today I marry the one I love.

Friends, Jimmy and Cherry have declared that they will live together in marriage. They have made special promises to each other. They have symbolised it by joining hands, taking vows, and giving and receiving rings. We have all have witnessed the vows of love and faithfulness made by Jimmy and Cherry to each other.

I ask you to share in their joy as I now declare them to be — husband and wife. Jimmy, you may kiss your Bride.