

Commitment Ceremony
Groom & Groom or Bride & Bride
Date
Venue & Location

Groom/Bride: Groom or Bride
Groom/Bride: Groom or Bride
Celebrant: Paul Mott

And can include whomever, including

Mother of Groom/Bride	Name
Father of Groom/Bride:	Name
Mother of Groom/Bride:	Name
Father of Groom/Bride:	Name
Maids of Honour	Name
Bridesmaids	1 or more Names
Flower Girls	1 or more Names
Ring Bearer	Name
Witnesses	2 Names
Readings	1 or more Names

Processional

Music: Come away with me (Nora Jones)

Flower boys/girls and groomsmen/bridesmaids followed by Groom & Groom or Bride & Bride with Father/Mother down the path towards front.

Welcome

Paul Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Paul Mott and I am a Civil Marriage Celebrant. On behalf of **Groom & Groom or Bride & Bride**, I welcome you to their Commitment Ceremony and to share in their very special day. You have shared and contributed to their lives in the past, and by witnessing their commitment today, **Groom & Groom or Bride & Bride** ask you to share in their future. We are here not only to witness their commitment, but also to wish them well and to wish them every happiness in their lives together.

Today marks their mutual commitment to continue building their lives together. They have come together out of a desire to be loved and to give love, to provide support and encouragement to each other, to embrace the new and exciting possibilities that their lives together can offer. Sharing an intimate relationship with someone you love is enhanced and supported by our ability to be loving and forgiving, thoughtful and caring, trusting and understanding. It involves respecting each other and giving comfort and support whenever it is needed.

Being in a loving committed relationship is about friendship, honesty and openness and a commitment to each other. **Groom & Groom or Bride & Bride** expect their lives together to be exciting, fun, with many enriching adventures. They expect that they'll continue to love each other and that this love will grow and deepen; that each of them will continue to grow both in their own ways and together, to continue to support one another, and eventually to have a wonderful life with their family, friends and each other.

May their lives together enable them to maintain a home where there will be love and stability, laughter, support and a warm welcome for family and friends.

The Giving Away

Paul to the Invited Guests

Are you willing now and always to support and strengthen this relationship by providing Groom & Groom or Bride & Bride with your love and support?

Invited Guests We are

Ring warming

Paul During this ceremony *Groom & Groom or Bride & Bride* will exchange rings. These rings are the visible signs of their commitment to one another.

As this ceremony proceeds we ask that everyone take part in the warming of the rings. We ask that you, their family and friends wish them health and happiness, and all that is noble and good in life. The rings will be passed around as I continue and I ask that you hold them for a moment, warm them with your love, and then pass them on to the next person. I ask that all present voice a silent wish or prayer for this couple, for their marriage and their future together.

When these rings come back, in their precious metal, that which is more precious, that which is priceless: your love and hope and pledge of support for this marriage

Reading 1

Paul I now ask a good friend/relative to come up and read....

Traditional Irish Blessing

May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon the fields.

May the light of friendship guide your paths together.
May the laughter of children grace the halls of your home.
May the joy of living for one another
trip a smile from your lips, a twinkle from your eye.

May you be poor in misfortunes, rich in blessings,
Slow to make enemies and quick to make friends.
But rich or poor, quick or slow,
May you know nothing but happiness from this day forward.
(unknown Author)

Reading 2

Paul I now ask..... a good friend/relative to come up and read....

Love is patient

Love is patient, love is kind
It does not envy, it does not boast,
It is not proud. It is not rude,
It is not self-seeking,
It is not easily angered,
It keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil
But rejoices with the truth.
It always protects, always trusts,
Always hopes, always perseveres,
Love never fails....

(1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

Declaration

Before you are joined together today, in my presence and in the presence of your family and friends, **Groom & Groom or Bride & Bride**, I am bound to remind you publicly of the solemn and binding nature of the commitment of couples.

This union is to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into. It is made in the deepest sense, with the desire, the hope and the firm intention that it will last for life.

The Asking

(Paul moves forward to stand close to both of you and will ask you to face each other and to hold each other's hands.)

Paul **Groom or Bride**, will you have **Groom or Bride** as your husband/wife, to live together in a committed relationship? Will you love him/her, cherish, honour and protect him/her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him/her, as long as you both shall live?

Groom/Bride I will

Paul **Groom or Bride**, will you have **Groom or Bride** as your husband/wife, to live together in committed relationship? Will you love him/her, cherish him/her, honour and protect him/her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him/her, as long as you both shall live?

Groom/Bride I will

Vows

Groom/Bride

I call upon the persons here present to witness that I, Groom/Bride, take you, **Groom/Bride**, as my husband/wife.

I offer myself to you, Groom/Bride, to be your husband/wife, your friend, your lover, and your lifelong companion;

I promise to give you the best of myself; the best that I can be

And to ask of you no more than you can give.

I promise to respect you as a person with your own interests, desires and needs, and to realise that these are sometimes different, but no less important, than my own.

I promise to keep myself open to you and to let you see through the window of my entire world.

And finally, I promise to love you as your husband/wife, in good times and in bad with all I have to give, and all that I feel inside.

Groom/Bride

I call upon the persons here present to witness that I, **Groom/Bride**, take you, **Groom/Bride**, as my husband/wife.

I offer myself to you, **Groom/Bride**, to be your husband/wife, your friend, your lover, your lifelong companion;

I promise to give you the best of myself; the best that I can be
And to ask of you no more than you can give.

I promise to respect you as a person with your own interests, desires and needs, and to realise that these are sometimes different, but no less important, than my own.

I promise to keep myself open to you and to let you see through the window of my entire world.

And finally, I promise to love you as your husband/wife, in good times and in bad with all I have to give, and all that I feel inside

Support Vows of Guests

Paul Friends, **Groom & Groom or Bride & Bride** have asked that all of you, who have been so important in their relationship and their lives, now pledge to support their relationship in the same way as you have supported them as single people.

Please show your support by responding to the following vows with the words "we will".

Paul Will you support them in their new life together rejoicing in their happiness and sustaining them in their struggles?

Guests We will

Ring Exchange

Paul **Groom/Bride**, what symbol do you have as a pledge of your vows?

Groom/Bride This ring

(Groom/Bride holds the ring near the third finger of Groom/Bride's left hand and repeats after Paul)

Groom/Bride, with this ring I wed you. With all that I am and all that I have, I honour and love you. Wear this ring as a symbol of my never-ending love.

(Groom/Bride slides the ring on Groom/Bride's finger)

Paul **Groom/Bride** what symbol do you have as a pledge of your vows?

Groom/Bride This ring

(Groom/Bride holds the ring near the third finger of Groom/Bride's left hand and repeats after Paul)

Groom/Bride, with this ring I wed you. With all that I am and all that I have, I honour and love you. Wear this ring as a symbol of my never-ending love.

(Groom/Bride slides the ring on Groom/Bride's finger)

Ending Declaration

Paul We have been privileged to have shared with **Groom & Groom** or **Bride & Bride** as they expressed their deep and loving commitment. By their making of special promises, the making of vows and the exchanging rings they have now entered a new and wonderful part of their lives.

It is my great pleasure to congratulate you both and declare you are now partners for life

Groom & Groom or Bride & Bride; I invite you to share your first kiss as partners for life

Signing of Certificate

Commitment Certificate

Ladies and Gentleman, I ask you to silently observe and send your love and blessing to **Groom & Groom or Bride & Bride** who will now join me (along with and, as witnesses) in signing the Commitment Certificate

Music: At Last (Beyoncé) and Endless Love (Lionel Richie and Diana Ross)

Presentation of Commitment Certificate

Groom & Groom or Bride & Bride, here is your Commitment Certificate

I take this opportunity to offer Groom & Groom or Bride & Bride my sincere congratulations and invite you all to do the same.

Thank you.

Recessional

Music: All you need is love (Lynden David Hall)

Groom & Groom or Bride & Bride walk back down the path. Commitment party follows.