

NT: Ephesians 3.14-end
A Moment of Happiness by Mawlana Jalaluddin Rumi

There is a magic that happens when two people commit to each other in love. True love enables that fine balance where two people can retain their individual identity. Be the people that God intended them to be with all the richness and blessings that they alone can bring to the kingdom of God. And at the same time, these two become one, joined by their love to bring a whole new dimension to their lives and the lives of those around them.

As Rumi says in the second reading this evening: *apparently two, but one in soul, you and I*. This is the gift that you have found, this is the wish that you have in wanting to commit yourselves to each other in marriage this coming year.

This is not to say that now all will be well, that there is no more to do. That once that final blessing is given and you walk hand in hand out of this church it will always feel as you do that moment. Marriage as in any other relationship requires work through understanding, empathy and compromise. It means putting yourself in the other's shoes and trying to see life from their point of view. It means remembering that though you may think you are right, you may need to concede sometimes and amend your stance. It means, as the vows that you will make say, *living together for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health,*

To those who have not experienced it, it sounds hard, a selfless life bound to that of another. But this is where love works its magic, makes such things possible. This is where the reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians tells us how it can be: *I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name.*

Your married life together will be rooted in the love of God, a reflection of God's love for all creation, a symbol of the love shared by the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is by the grace of God that you will live your lives together, a family with strength to overcome sorrow and to rejoice in happy times.

When you leave this church to go to your wedding reception, you will begin a new life together, a life that will see you grow and change over the years, a life that, please God will, see your love for each other deepen and develop as you live each day together until you move from this world to live in God's glorious light in eternity.

So this is my prayer for you, that you may join with Rumi in his words:

as we laugh together, you and I.
In one form upon this earth,
And in another form in a timeless sweet land.

Revd Michelle Montrose