

REMEMBERING WITH THANKS

*We stand before the map of married life,
the map that plots the times along the journey;
the time of attraction and getting to know each other,
the time of falling in love
the time of commitment,
the time of celebrating and pledging commitment,
the time of adjusting to each other and to new patterns,
the time of giving birth and being struck by wonder,
the time of upbringing and educating and forming,
the time of family togetherness,
the time of letting go with tears and hopes,
the time of being back to ourselves again,
the time of changes in life and second journeys,
the time of retiring,
the time of the onset of ageing.*

*Standing before the map, seeing the point we are at,
we pray for the grace to accept the different stages
in our marriage;
to be able to look back with gratitude
and to look forward with anticipation
and around in awareness,
confident that God's grace is in this very moment
if we but had the clarity of vision to see it.*

*We think back on the "I love you" we spoke at the beginning
and compare it to the "I love you" we speak now.
We see how that simple phrase has been deepened
and enriched
and filled out by the experience of the intervening years
and for this we give thanks.*

2017 WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

SILVER, RUBY, GOLD, DIAMOND



MASS OF THANKSGIVING

*Cherishing Marriage,
Celebrating Relationships*

**St Gabriel's Church
Dollymount**

PENITENTIAL RITE

All:

**We are inspired by the Holy Family
to live according to love.**

We confess our frailty and failure to live up to this ideal.

**We confess selfishness and self-centredness;
our pride and reluctance to admit our wrongs;
our impatience and intolerance.**

**We confess our lack of trust
that we are loved by each other and by God;
our fear to take the risk of loving;
our hesitation in seizing opportunities to make love real.**

**In confessing our sin, we proclaim God's mercy
and we pray for the waters of his compassion
to run gently over us and wash away our sin,
to purify our hearts and our intentions.**

RENEWAL OF MARRIAGE VOWS

Fr. Pat: I invite you to profess your faith in the love of God
- a Trinity of persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Do you believe in the goodness of human life,
in God the creator of all?

All: We do.

Fr. Pat: Do you believe in Jesus, God's own beloved Son,
in the power of his death and resurrection
and that good will triumph over evil?

All: We do.

Fr. Pat: Do you believe in God's Spirit, living within and
amongst us, uniting us to Jesus and calling us to love?

All: We do.

Fr. Pat: Do you believe that we all share this call
and that responding to it we can change the world?

All: We do.

Fr. Pat: With these convictions, I now invite you to renew
the promises you made on your Wedding Day.

Husbands: I confirm and renew my gift of myself to you.
In my failure to love, I ask to be reconciled with you.
I thank you for your love and I thank God for you.

Wives: I confirm and renew my gift of myself to you.
In my failure to love, I ask to be reconciled with you.
I thank you for your love and I thank God for you.

**Together: We thank you, good and gracious God,
because finding each other has made life so special
for us
and because in our love we have known your call.
We thank you for our family and home where we
live the call to love.
As we renew our commitment we ask your blessing
and protection.**

Fr. Pat: I call upon the Holy Trinity to bless all those who
celebrate special anniversaries today:
to bless them with the unity that is within God
to bless them with the diversity that is within God
to bless them with the intimacy that is within God
to bless them with the creativity that is within God
to bless them with the passion that is within God
and to draw them ever more deeply
and to draw them forever
into the life that is God.

