



Wedding Rituals



Celtic Oathing Stone

Embrace the old European tradition to add a meaningful highlight to your wedding ceremony.

The Oathing Stone is an old Scottish tradition where the Bride and Groom place their hands upon a stone while saying their wedding vows.

Called the oathing stone it was thought to be the best way to express your solemn promise in physical form. Taken from the ancient Celtic custom of setting an oath in stone, inclusion of an oathing stone in the vows can be deeply moving.

Etching your vows in stone is a sacred symbol across cultures. In the Scottish tradition an oath given near a stone or water was considered more binding. In some areas of Scotland, the couple would carve their names on a tree or a stone. Some of these bridal stones still exist across Scotland.

During the reading of the Bride and Groom's wedding vows, they hold an Oathing Stone in their hands. It is believed that holding the stone during the reading of the vows casts them into the stone.

In a more modern version, the Oathing Stone can be engraved with the couple's initials in the middle, accompanied by the groom & bride's initials and date of their wedding. The source of an oathing stone, what minerals are in it, its color, or other characteristics are less important than what is said over the stone.



Ring Warming Ceremony



The rings can be passed around the room on a pillow or in a bag. The celebrant can explain a little about it right at the beginning of the ceremony.

Everyone holds the rings for a few seconds and says a little blessing/prayer for them.

Then by the time you do your vows the rings have made their way all the way around the room and all your loved ones have given their blessings.

An alternative is to have them displayed at the ceremony entrance, and have people give their blessings before they sit down. Or for larger weddings, just have the immediate family bless the rings

Bride and groom hold each other's hands while this blessing is said by the celebrant:

“These are the hands of your best friend - Young and strong and full of love for you, that are holding yours on your wedding day, as you promise to love each other today, tomorrow, and forever.

These are the hands that will work alongside yours, as together you build your future.

These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years, and with the slightest touch, will comfort you like no other.

These are the hands that will hold you when fear or grief fills your mind.

These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes; tears of sorrow, and tears of joy.

These are the hands that will tenderly hold your children.

These are the hands that will help you to hold your family as one.

These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it.

And lastly, these are the hands that even when aged, will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch.”

Hand Blessing Ceremony





Handfasting



Handfasting is a simple and traditional ceremony used in Irish, Scottish, and Welsh weddings, which goes back to the medieval and renaissance period. It involves the tying of hands together to symbolize the coming together and remain tied together.

You can use multiple colours for children as well, or to have a meaning to each coloured ribbon.

During the ceremony, the celebrant explains the meaning behind the colours and the tradition.



Unity Ceremonies



Sand Ceremony

A symbolic blending of two different-colored sands into a single vessel. The blending of two different beings, into a single, inseparable unit that is their marriage — the joining of their lives. Hard as it would be to separate out those grains of sand, that's how difficult it is to separate these two people.



Alternative Salt Ceremony



Many cultures consider salt to be the purest of all natural substances. Salt has also been seen as a symbol of other elements of life, such as permanence, purity and good luck. By pouring the two separate jars of salt together, the couple are totally mixing the grains. It would be impossible to ever distinguish the salt as coming from one person or the others again, much as their commitment to each other

Different Sand/Salt Ceremony:

Mix any two items into one vessel.

Are you chef's or have an interesting connection with food?

White peppercorns and black lava salt, turmeric and paprika, salt and pepper, cinnamon and sugar

Unity Ceremonies cont'd

Bowl Ritual



This tradition is a way to honour multiple generations of the bride's and groom's families, and/or a way to include any children that the couple may have.

The couple selects a glass bowl they would enjoy having in their new home.

Each grandparent, parent, stepparent, godparent and so on is given a bud vase filled with a different color of flat coloured marbles, with the separate colours signifying the individuality of each family member.

The grandparents pour their separate colours into the Unity Bowl as the foundation of the wedding of the bride and groom.

Each set of parents does the same. After each set of grandparents, parents and so on have added their marbles to the mix, the celebrant stirs the colours with her hand, creating new mosaics each time. Siblings and other special friends may be invited to participate, as well.

Then the bride and groom add their two colours. Mix the Unity Bowl contents again. If there are children, they add theirs after the bride and groom, as we are honouring each generation.

Water Ritual

A symbolic blending of two different-coloured waters into a single vessel.

“as you pour your yellow water into the container you bring sunshine and wisdom to your marriage...

as you pour your blue water into the marriage vessel, you bring confidence, trust and loyalty to your marriage

Tying the knot



The origin of "**tying the knot**" is either from the Roman times when the bride's girdle was tied in knots on the wedding day and the groom had to untie the knots prior to consummating the marriage or more likely from the Celtic (pagan) marriage ceremony of handfasting, where the hands of the bride and groom were tied

Both the groom's mum and the bride's mum can present the couple with a long piece of thick ribbon or cord (2 different colors, maybe your wedding colors) which you will tie in a knot to symbolize the union of the two families.

You can also plan to "tie the knot" every year on your anniversary with the same piece of ribbon/cord.



Rose Ceremony

In the Rose Ceremony, the Bride and Groom give each other a Rose. Two roses are all that is necessary.

The Rose Ceremony is placed at the end of the ceremony just before being pronounced husband and wife.

In the old language of flowers, a single red rose always meant "I love you"

Alternative Mother's Rose Ceremony:

Marriage is the celebration of coming together of two lives and it is a celebration of two people in love, and the Bride and Groom give their Mothers a rose to honour and pay tribute to their parents. Can include Grandmothers as a way to show appreciation.



Tree Planting



Plant a tree together with a little dirt from each of your family's home if possible.



After the ceremony, take the potted tree, and transplant it at the newlywed's home to symbolize putting down roots, longevity, and strength within this marriage.

(An option is to have the parents water it to symbolize the way they have been an influence in teaching and encouraging love.)



Infinity circle



This can be a simple circle of love, or an infinity circle.

The circle can be created on the day of the wedding by all the wedding guests, or the arrangement can be done prior to the guests arriving.

The couple stand inside the circle, and thus representing the joining of the couple surrounded by love. It can also signify if you have the same coloured flowers, representing the merging of two families





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