

## James & Niamh

Saturday, 21st August, 4 PM

### Dubrovnik St. Ignatius

#### Intro

Welcome to the miraculous old town of Dubrovnik. The massive, ancient walls remind us that the Christian Marriage has a long and proven history. It is a strong shelter protecting the future of the family.

We start this joyful and solemn prayer in the name of the Eternal Love - in the name of the Most Holy, Divine Trinity.

Dear Mr. James Patrick Duffy, son of James and Frances, dear child of God! Today is the day of your decision and commitment to love all the days of your life. Please step forward and light the candle on the altar to represent your individuality and uniqueness!

Dear Miss Niamh Emma Corrighan, daughter of Laurence and Frances, dear child of God! You are now bringing everything you are to this altar of God. Beneath all the excitement of the moment you know where there is a light deep in your soul God has given you. Please step forward and light your candle to represent that you are the chosen one Jesus our Lord has loved, blessed and sanctified.

#### Homily

Many people come to Dubrovnik because they need rest. They are looking for something to see and feel; they come to find a new joy. Men and women in the world of today are tired and depressed. Often they need the help of alcohol and other drugs to warm up their souls.

At the same time today we are more than ever aware of our human needs. There are also spiritual needs. There is a need for the silent moments of prayer, for personal, devoted and profound relationship with God - the giver of life. There is a need to find a source of deep and lasting human satisfaction and inner peace. We have to discover what makes us feel really good - and not only for a moment or two, but for years. James and Niamh with your marriage you are giving an example to the world of today how to go on. I thank you and I congratulate you!

Jesus our Lord proposed an answer to our search for joy. The Gospel proclaims that he would like to grant us *his own joy* (John 15:11). The great demand and a

hard condition *to keep his commandments* (John 15:10) has the one purpose: that our joy may be complete - that *your joy, Niamh and James, may be complete.*

This church of St. Ignatius in Dubrovnik has a special spiritual power. This church is inviting to carefully discover, feel and enjoy the mysterious Presence of God. It is inviting us to look up to heaven. There is a peculiar symbol of Jesus' own joy. On his *Cross* he gave his life for his friends and thus he gave an example and an evidence of *the greatest love* (John 15:13), of the *love that never ends* (1 Cor 13:8). Thus he is now enjoying the eternal glory in heaven.

James and Niamh, I congratulate you that you decided to go the way of your Lord and Master. The marriage is a mission: You, James will go where Niamh goes. You Niamh, will go where James goes (Ruth 1:16). Even more! With his new commandment to love one another Jesus is entrusting yourselves to each other (John 15:12). You, James, are to love Niamh as Jesus, your Friend and Lord has loved you. You, Niamh, are to love James as Jesus your Friend and Redeemer has loved you.

The measure of his love is a divine one. Jesus loved us as the Father has loved him (John 15:9). The Father gave him the power to make miracles stronger than disease, hunger, forces of nature, and evil spirits. The Father revealed his loving presence after his Baptism and on the Mountain of Transfiguration in the way that the others could experience it. The Father gave him the Spirit to overcome the diabolic temptations in the desert, and in the Garden of Gethsemane. It is finally the Father who gave him the great final victory - a new life after dying on the cross. He granted him the name above all names. That is how the Father loved him! That is the divine measure of love Jesus is demanding of his disciples (John 15:9.12). That is the love which is a Lord's calling to you, James and Niamh.

### **Marriage Candle**

In the bread and wine on the altar we are celebrating the divine love that became human because God wanted to be one with us. Jesus, Emmanuel is the light of the world. James and Niamh, please come forward and light your marriage candle to represent your sacramental unification and your constant mission: Be the light of the world! Be the light for Ireland and for Europe! Be the light in the whole Church of God.

Fr. Niko Bilić S.J.  
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