

Reading

1 John 4:7-12

God is love.

A reading from the first letter of St John.

7 My dear people,
let us love one another
since love comes from God
and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

8 Anyone who fails to love can never have known God,
because God is love.

9 God's love for us was revealed
when God sent into the world his only Son
so that we could have life through him;

10 this is the love I mean:
not our love for God,
but God's love for us when he sent his Son
to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

11 My dear people,
since God has loved us so much,
we too should love one another.

12 No one has ever seen God;
but as long as we love one another
God will live in us
and his love will be complete in us.

The word of the Lord.

Looking at the Text

N-13 1 John 4:7-12
God is love

The first letter of St John

This letter reflects on many of the themes of John's Gospel — including light and darkness, living as God's children, and specifically, the greatest commandments of faith in Jesus and loving one another as he loves us. In keeping these commandments, we share in the life that Jesus himself shares with the Father. This is a great mystery, beyond words and understanding — it is the mystery that is made real in the ordinary everyday living out of love that God, who is love, enables us to do.

In this passage

St John says *God is love!* God's immeasurable love is shown to us through Jesus coming into the world, living totally for others, and through his self-offering in life, suffering and death, and in rising from the dead. He takes away the power of every dark, selfish, oppressive thought or action across time and space — everything that gets in the way of love. Through entering into the life he offers us through baptism we are free, enabled to live lives of love as God intended from the beginning. A couple living in love has the utter reassurance that God is with them, living in them through their love. Your love for each other wells up from a source deep inside — and that comes from God! An amazing mystery only glimpsed in the living of it!

Reflecting on Scripture together

Use the 'Reflecting on Scripture together — a simple way' in the introduction 'Choosing your Wedding readings'.

Further Reflection

Following the 'slow reading' process, here are some questions for further reflection:

- How did you first know that he or she was the one for you? What was it that most attracted you to your partner? What's it like to be in love?
- How do you show your love for one another in little daily words and actions?
- Given the demands of busy lives, how are you going to make time for building your married relationship, becoming more 'inter-dependent' sharing your lives, rather than living independently, once you are married?
- What are the most important ways of sustaining your relationship?
- What do you like about this reading? Why would it be a good one for your wedding?