

Please be seated.

Philip & Tara – June 22, 2013

Good afternoon. My name is Melissa Taylor and I have the privilege of performing this wedding ceremony today.

I encourage each of you to take many photos throughout the ceremony in order to preserve your memories of this special day.

Tara and Philip stand before you to declare their commitment to each other in front of their family and friends and to celebrate with you on this wonderful occasion.

Many of you have given them much happiness, love, warmth, and guidance through the various stages of their lives. Thank you for joining them as we realize that some of you have travelled a great distance to be here. Your presence is invaluable and Tara and Philip wanted me to express their gratitude in this respect. We would also like to acknowledge those who could not be here today as they are certainly missed but not forgotten.

Tara and Philip have known each other for almost 8 years, meeting during their travels in Ireland in 2005. Their relationship has grown despite their many differences. Tara is artistic, calm, grew up by the beach and couldn't live without chocolate. Whilst Philip is practical, focused, bouncy at times, grew up under a foot or two of snow and would choose anything over chocolate!

Travel, food, and endless curiosity have been some of the key elements that have shaped the foundation of this relationship.

To quote Dr. Seuss,

“We are all a little weird and

Life's a little weird.

When we find someone whose weirdness
Is compatible with yours,
We join up with them and fall in mutual weirdness
And call it Love.”

Throughout these 8 years, they have experienced many changes including new jobs, new homes, new countries. The one constant throughout this time for them has been each other. They have learned that things don't always go the right way all the time but in the end, the lesson has been that valuable experiences and memories are what you get when you didn't get what you wanted.

Keeping all of this in mind

Philip, Do you take Tara to be your wife from this day forward? To live together and to comfort her in times of need? Do you promise to build a life filled with love and laughter, sharing all that is to come?

Tara, Do you take Philip to be your husband from this day forward? To live together and to comfort him in times of need? Do you promise to build a life filled with love and laughter, sharing all that is to come?

In the spirit of the importance of strong friendships to a marriage, Tara and Philip have asked Tara's brother Seamus to read a passage that they find meaningful with regards to this occasion.

"Union" by Robert Fulghum

"You have known each other from the first glance of acquaintance to this point of commitment. At some point, you decided to marry. From that moment of yes, to this moment of yes, indeed, you have been making commitments in an informal way. All of those conversations that were held in a car, or over a meal, or during long walks – all those conversations that began with, "When we're married", and continued with "I will" and "you will" and "we will" – all those late night talks that included "someday" and "somehow" and "maybe" – and all those promises that are unspoken matters of the heart. All these common things, and more, are the real process of a wedding.

The symbolic vows that you are about to make are a way of saying to one another, "You know all those things that we've promised, and hoped, and dreamed – well, I meant it all, every word."

Look at one another and remember this moment in time. Before this moment you have been many things to one another – acquaintance, friend, companion...even teacher, for you have learned much from one another these past few years. Shortly you will say a few words that will take you across a threshold of life, and things between you will never quite be the same.

For after today you shall say to the world –
This is my husband. This is my wife."

(Tara can now hand flowers to maid of honour)

The vows that Tara and Philip are about to make reflect their understanding of life's ever-changing circumstances. Life does not always go where we plan and no matter how much arranging is done, sometimes, you just have to wing it. Love constantly grows as well, and Tara and Philip are prepared to grow along with it, together.

(Both repeat at the same time)

Tara & Philip, please repeat these words:

I promise to love you

From this day forward

I will laugh with you in happiness
and console you in sorrow.

I promise to be your companion
and offer my life long support
in every part of your dreams.

These things I give to you today
and all the days of our lives.

Tara and Philip, keeping these vows in mind, please take each other's hands in your own and remember these words:

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 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. In your final years, these are the hands that even when wrinkled and aged, will still be reaching for yours, still giving

you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch.

Tara and Philip will now exchange rings.

Philip, please take Tara's hand and repeat these words.

I give you this ring, as a symbol of our marriage,
for today and tomorrow, and for all the days to come.
Wear it as a sign of what we have promised on this day
and know that my love is present,
even when I am not.

Tara, please take Philip's hand and repeat these words.

I give you this ring, as a symbol of our marriage,
for today and tomorrow, and for all the days to come.
Wear it as a sign of what we have promised on this day
and know that my love is present,
even when I am not.

May these vows be forever cherished. May they be a sign of compassion, and a seal
of happiness here and hereafter. Never forget the joy of this day.

And finally, May you always have enough and may enough always be more than you
hoped for.

I now declare that you are husband and wife. You may kiss the bride.

Signing of the register

Please stay seated while Tara and Philip take a moment to sign the register with Tara's brother Patrick and Philip's sister Julia as their witnesses.
(envelope of documents will be given to Julia after signing complete)

Announcement

TBA

Introduction of the couple

At this time it is my personal privilege and joy to be the first one to introduce to you Mr and Mrs Philip and Tara Donovan. Please join me in congratulating them.