



Examples of Rituals

1. Unity candle – symbolises the new relationship or family which is being created as distinct from couple's past life apart
2. Symbolic gift giving - Including children in the vows or as part of ring ceremony, small token offered to the children
3. Rose ceremony – exchange of two roses, symbolises the giving and receiving of their love for each other throughout their entire married life (different flowers have different meanings)
4. Sand ceremony – the blending/layering of individual sand into one vessel (jar/bottle)
5. Sharing of wine – sharing drink from chalice/goblet symbolises the cup of life they share and ad the first drink taken together as husband and wife
6. Unity bowl – crystal/bowel that will be in married household, coloured stones/marbles placed in bowl by family (eldest to youngest). Once all in the bowl celebrant mingles the colours and then couple to stir up the design in the bowl.
7. Stone ceremony – bride and groom given a stone each and they cast it into a body of water (usually the sea or river) to symbolise their unity so long as the river flows or the tide ebbs and returns.
8. Handfasting – binding of hands, potentially related to the infinity symbol, created when the couple cross hands in a figure 8. Variations using ribbons.
9. Flower ceremony – as bride walks down the aisle, she takes one flower from her bouquet and hands to her mother. Following ceremony, she does the same with her mother-in-law as she walks back down the aisle.
10. Warming of the rings – the rings are passed around the family and friends to be held and warm wishes to be given to the rings.