



# Rachana Kulkarni to Joshua Childs

MAY 20th 2021, 9am to 4pm

## WEDDING RITUALS



### GAURI HAAR POOJA

The bride offers prayers to Goddess Parvati, wife of Lord Shiva, who bestows knowledge, success, and victory to bless her with wisdom, good health and happiness in this journey.

### MADHUPARK

This ritual honours the groom and family. The bride's father will wash the groom's feet and receive his family with Sanai (music), flowers and coconut.



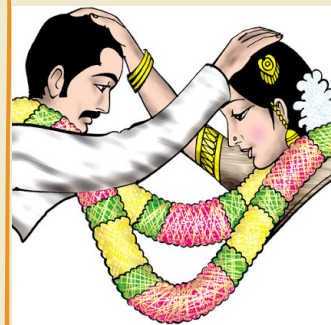
### BRIDE'S ENTRANCE

After the Gauri pooja, the bride enters the Mandav (stage) and seeks the blessings of all elders. Antarpatri (Shawl) is placed between the groom and the bride so that they do not see each other.

## LAGNA MUHURAT- WEDDING CEREMONY

### VARMALA

The ceremony begins with Mangalashtak, the invocation of Lord Ganesh, who is the foundation of existence; he is endowed with the powers of creation, sustenance and destruction. We pray for the event to continue smoothly. The shawl is then removed. At this time, please bless the couple with Akshata (rice). The exchange of garland of flowers is a tradition. The bride will first garland the groom, symbolizing her acceptance of him as her husband, and then the groom will do the same.

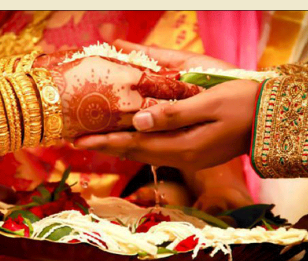


### KANYADAAN

In this ceremony, the bride's father gives her hand in marriage to the groom. The groom will place his right hand over her hand, and the bride's mother will pour water down on the joined hands of the couple. This symbolizes that the couple's life will flow together from this point onwards.

### MANGAL SUTRA

Mangal means that which gives good things, and Dharan means wearing. The groom will put the necklace on the bride. Before this, the necklace is circulated amongst the audience for their blessings and good wishes.



### PAANIGRAHAN

After tying the Mangala sutra (Wedding necklace), the groom lowers his right hand and encloses the right hand of the bride. This act of clasping the hand is Paanigrahan. The groom will then recite prayers wishing for unity, prosperity and harmony.





## LAJJA HOMA

The couple will meditate and take an oath in front of Lord Agni(fire), promising to be together always. They will pray for peace and prosperity and then offer rice and flowers to Lord Agni.



## SAPTAPADI

The groom holds the bride's hand and they will take their first seven steps together as a married couple. Seven handfuls of rice are placed in the 'mandap'. As the groom leads the bride to each pile, she places her right toe on it, while he promises to share strength, promise to live a passionate and energetic life, share wealth and prosperity, happiness and sorrow' share responsibility for children, promise to be together through all the seasons to come and will support each other as friends through the rest of our lives.'

The groom will then place a ring on her toes, this represents solidarity and stability.

## ASHIRVAD and VARAT

The couple will take the blessings of their elders. The wedding rituals conclude with Varat(bridal procession)

