

Planning Your Wedding

Pre-Marriage Preparation Courses

A Dublin Diocesan Directive requires all couples intending to marry to attend a pre-marriage course. Particulars and booking forms are available from:

- a) ACCORD 39 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2. Ph: 01 4784400 / 01 4780866. Email: marriagepreparation@dublin.accord.ie
- b) Mount Argus. Ph: 01 2964257 (during office hours). Website: <http://www.together.ie/>
- c) N.A.O.M.I Centre. Ph: 01 8786156. Website: www.naomi.ie
- d) Getting Married (Detailed information) Website: www.gettingmarried.ie

Getting Married Abroad

If you are getting married in Rome visit www.irishcollege.org

If you are getting married in any other country, contact Dublin Diocesan Office. Ph: 01 8373732

Officiating Priest

If the marriage is in another parish, a 'Letter of Freedom' is necessary from the priest of your parish.

If both parties are from a different parish to the one in which they wish to marry, the couple are expected to get their own priest to arrange the necessary documents and officiate at the wedding ceremony.

If neither party lives in the parish, a letter from your priest stating that he will officiate at the wedding must be presented when the church is being booked.

Civil Law Requirement

The minimum age of which a person may marry is 18 years of age and 3 months written notice is required by the State Registrar, who will confirm in writing your date and place of wedding. For persons under 18 years old, 6 months notice is required.

The General Register Office Phone 353(0) 90 6632900 www.groireland.ie

Documents Required

Baptismal Certificates: (Long Form) for each party, which were issued in the past 6 months. These can be obtained from the parish in which you were baptised.

Confirmation Certificates: for each party. These can be obtained from the parish in which you were confirmed.

Letter of Freedom: this is a document stating that a person has not already entered into a contract of marriage. Such a document can be obtained from any parish in which a party has resided for a period of 6 months since the age of 16 years.

Mixed Marriage Dispensation: a mixed marriage is where one party is not a member of the Catholic Faith. The Catholic party must obtain a dispensation from the impediment of Mixed Religion from the Archbishop. The priest of the parish will be pleased to help and advise you in acquiring any necessary dispensation.

Papal Blessing: if you wish to apply for a Papal Blessing on the occasion of your marriage, such application must be accompanied by a letter of recommendation from a priest in your parish. The parchments are arranged by Veritas, Abbey Street, Dublin 1 or The Franciscans, Merchants Quay, Dublin 8, or St. Martin's Apostolate, 42 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

Church Booking

The specific wedding date and time must be booked at the Church at least 3 months prior to the marriage date. You must book in person at Reception in the House of Retreat during the office hours 9.30am-1pm. If you are from another parish you must have a letter from your own Priest to state that he will officiate at the wedding.

Church Offerings

This is to cover the costs of sacristan, priest, heating, lighting and insurance for all visitors and guests. The price is €250 to be paid when booking your wedding

Planning the Service

It is certainly the wish of every couple that their wedding day be a memorable occasion. The couple has great freedom in choosing the content of their Marriage Service, readings, words of consent, prayers etc. in order to involve family and friends and ensure that the ceremony is an intimate and personal celebration.

The priest will be delighted to assist in planning the service with you and if desired will arrange a rehearsal so that you may be relaxed and confident on your wedding day.

Other Arrangements

Music & Singers: musical arrangements must be made in consultation with Geraldine Stynes, the resident Church Organist. Mobile: 087 9973134. Tel: 01 6240336

Flowers: it is up to each couple to engage their own florist if they so wish.

Photographs: it would be appreciated when making arrangements for photographs of your wedding in the church, to inform your photographer to be discreet and as unobtrusive as possible during the marriage and mass. The taking of group photographs is **not** permitted at the Grotto. Most photographers, if requested, will cooperate.

Confetti: confetti thrown in the church and church grounds can cause great problems in cleaning and we would therefore ask you **not** to throw confetti in these areas.

Punctuality: we all know of the belief, ‘It’s the Bride’s privilege to be late.’ However, in recent times this has been taken to extremes, 30 – 40 minutes late! Late arrivals impinge on other church activities.

Contact Details

Mary Immaculate Parish Office: 01 4541117

Office hours: Mon – Fri, 9.30am – 5pm.

Useful Books

‘A Wedding of Your Own’ (Padraig McCarthy, Veritas)

‘Your Wedding’ (Redemptorist Publications. Tel: 01 4922488 / 01 4067100.

Email: info@redemptoristpublications.com