



*Church of the Nativity of our Lord
Beaumont Parish*



AN INFORMATION GUIDE
TO
CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE
IN
THE PARISH OF
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD -
BEAUMONT.



INTRODUCTION

The priests, parish team and parishioners wish to congratulate you on your decision to celebrate your wedding in the church of The Nativity of Our Lord. We pray that your wedding day will be happy and relaxed. The following will be very helpful in assisting you in planning your wedding liturgy and to organise the necessary marriage papers .

1. BOOKING THE CHURCH:

Couples preparing for marriage must give at least 3 months notice, but 6 –12 is preferable, to the priest in the parish in which they reside, he is also responsible for preparing all of your required church documentation. This is irrespective of the parish location of where they will celebrate your marriage and possibly the presiding celebrant.

The 3 months minimum notice to the marriage registrar is a separate legal state requirement.

To avoid disappointment it is very strongly advised that you book the church **before** you book your reception venue.

2. DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:

- I. A **Baptism Certificate** for each party which has been written within six months of the date of marriage.
- II. A **Confirmation Certificate** for each party is also required again dated within six months of the date of marriage.
- III. A **Letter of Freedom** is a document stating that each person has not already entered a contract of Marriage. Such a document must be obtained from any parish in which either party has lived for six months or more since the age of sixteen. Some parishes have replaced the traditional Letter of Freedom with a **Declaration of Freedom to Marry**. This form is obtained from your local parish and is completed by a family member testifying that you are free to marry.
- IV. **Mixed Marriage (Disparity of Cult):** Where one party is not a Roman Catholic the Catholic party must obtain a dispensation from the *Impediment of Mixed Religion* from Archbishops House. *(The priest of the parish in which you are living - who is completing your papers will be happy to assist and advise you in acquiring the necessary dispensation)*
- V. **Papal Blessing:** If you would like to apply for a Papal Blessing on the occasion of your marriage, a letter of recommendation from a priest of your parish must accompany your application. The Parchments are arranged by:

Veritas, Middle Abbey Street, Dublin 1.
or
The Franciscan Friary, Merchants Quay, Dublin 8.



VI.A **Pre-Nuptial Enquiry Form** is to be completed by the priest in the parish where you live once you have all of the other documents. This form is a number of questions that are designed to help you to reflect on the decision that you have made.

3. **PRE-MARRIAGE COURSE:**

The next step is to book yourself on to a pre-marriage course. It is important that you do not leave this to the last minute. Courses are run throughout the year by ACCORD - the Diocesan agency for care of marriage. For further information on the availability of courses ACCORD can be contacted on: **01-4780866** or by email: marriagepreparation@accord.ie the ACCORD website also offers the facility to book courses online at www.accord.ie



4. **STATE REQUIREMENTS:**

- I. **Make an appointment** to meet with a Civil Registrar to give at least **3 months** notice in advance of your proposed date of marriage of your intention to marry.
- II. **Meet with the priest** of the parish where you live in advance of your meeting with the registrar, book the church and know the name of the priest who has agreed to celebrate your marriage (in civil law he is known as the *Solemniser*) It is important that you make sure that the priest who is to marry you is on the 'List of Solemnisers'. If he is not on the list ask your local priest about having him nominated as a temporary Solemniser for your marriage.
- III. **Photo Identity**, preferably a passport or driving license.
- IV. Names & dates of births of the witnesses.
- V. Name of the church where you intend to marry
- VI. Date of marriage.
- VII. Name of the priest who will preside at your marriage.
- VIII. If either of you has been married before you must provide the Civil Registrar with an original decree, or if you are widowed, a death certificate.
- IX. Make sure that you receive the **Marriage Registration Form (MRF)** from the registrar and show it to the Solemniser/Priest who is to preside at your marriage, to ensure that all the details are correct.
- X. Make a verbal declaration of no civil impediment before the Solemniser and your two witnesses not more than two days before your marriage. It usually takes place just as you arrive at the Sanctuary area on the day of your marriage as the Rite of Marriage is about to begin.
- XI. You must return to **any Civil Registrar's office the signed MRF/Form A**, not later than one month after your marriage has been celebrated. For the Dublin area the address is: Registrar of Marriages, Room 1, Joyce House, 8-11 Lombard Street, Dublin 2.

5. ARRANGING THE LITURGY OF YOUR WEDDING.

It is certainly the wish of every couple that their wedding day be a memorable occasion, literally the day of a lifetime. The couple have a certain freedom in choosing the content of the Marriage service, but it should be done in consultation with the priest who is to preside at your wedding.

What kind of service do you want to have? There are two kinds of service in the Catholic Church that you can have. One is a Wedding service which takes place without having mass. The other is a Nuptial Mass where the wedding service takes place with the context of Mass. The part where you profess your vows is the same and in each case are joyful celebrations. You may find it helpful to discuss the alternatives with your priest before making the final decision.

Readers: The priest will proclaim/read the gospel reading at your wedding. There will be other readings from scripture also. These readings will give you the opportunity to involve some of your guests in the liturgy if you wish. It is important that they have the readings in advance so that they understand what they are reading. In addition to the readings there are also Prayer of the Faithful or 'Bidding Prayers'. You can write these yourself, your priest will be happy to help you with this, he will have some general prayers that you can choose from and adapt to make them applicable to you.

6. OTHER ARRANGEMENTS:

Musician & Singer; it is advisable to talk with your local priest about the music that you would like at your wedding. There are obviously some songs, while popular, may not be appropriate for the liturgical celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage. The Organist & Singer who regularly play/sing in our parish will be only too please to help you with the selection of suitable hymns & music.

Flowers. Please speak to the priest/sacristan in relation to arranging the flowers for your wedding. The church building is not always accessible hence it is important that you make an arrangement in advance.

Photographs: It would be greatly appreciated that, when making arrangements for photographs of your wedding in the church building, you inform your photographer to be as discreet as possible during the Marriage and the Mass. Most photographers if requested will co-operate.



7. PARISH PROTOCOL:

- I. It is common practice to inform the Parish Priest at your initial meeting, if a priest from outside the parish is presiding at your wedding ceremony.
- II. As a matter of courtesy please try to arrive on time as there may be other weddings or ceremonies in the church later that day.
- III. Children must be supervised at all times during the wedding ceremony.
- IV. Confetti is not permitted in the church grounds.
- V. Please encourage your guests to familiarise themselves with the fire exits.
- VI. Remember that you and your guests are in a place of worship and must act accordingly.

8. CHURCH OFFERINGS:

We in the Parish of the Nativity pride ourselves in making every effort to have the church building and grounds as welcoming as possible. This involves heating, lighting as well as insurance cover for you and your guests. It is customary to make an offering in appreciation and to offset the cost of the facilities provided. The suggested offering is €170.00 which includes an offering to the priest of this parish. *This is separate to any arrangement that you may make with a priest who is not of this parish but is presiding at your wedding.*

Our volunteer sacristans give up their time to assist in preparing the church for your wedding. Accordingly it is suggested that a gratuity of €50 be made to the sacristan.

It is helpful to have these offerings placed in envelopes, clearly marked and given to the priest before the ceremony.

9. THE PRIEST OF YOUR PARISH:

The priests of your parish and the parish team assure you of every assistance in planning your wedding and wish you every blessing and happiness on your wedding and into the future.

Finally we hope that you have found these guidelines helpful. Should you require any clarification please do not hesitate in asking any member of the parish team. We pray God's blessing on you as you prepare for your marriage and wish you every blessing in your married life together.

Jesus said: "where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there among them." Mt. 18:20.

GETTING MARRIED - THE ESSENTIAL CHECKLIST.

Church Requirements:

- ◆ Meet the priest of the parish to set a date and discuss pre-requisites.
- ◆ Your wedding date - you must give a minimum of three months notice but preferably 6 or 12 months.
- ◆ Inform the priest of the name of parish and the name of the priest who will preside at your wedding and the church chosen for your wedding - if different from the priest of this parish.
- ◆ Book your Pre-Marriage Course six months in advance of your wedding.
- ◆ Discuss ceremony details with the priest who will preside at your wedding
- ◆ Choose the Scripture Readings, Prayer of the Faithful, music etc. for your ceremony.

Documents Required:

- ◆ A Certificate of Baptism (*must be a current certificate, written within the last six months*)
- ◆ A certificate of Confirmation.
- ◆ Pre-Nuptial Enquiry Form (which is available from the priest and is to be completed by the priest)
- ◆ Letter of Freedom to Marry for each party and from each parish in which you have lived since the age of 16. In the case of a Declaration of the Freedom to Marry one document alone suffices.
- ◆ Dispensation - if either party is non Roman Catholic or the marriage is to take place in a non Roman Catholic Church.
- ◆ If you wish to have a Papal Blessing, you will require a 'Letter of Recommendation' from your priest - the blessing takes approximately 12 weeks to obtain.
- ◆ If you intend to marry abroad inform your priest in good and he will provide further information.

CONTACT DETAILS.

The Parish Office : 8477740 Mon - Fri 10am - 1pm

Priests of the Parish:

Fr. Gerard Deegan: 8710013

Fr Dan Nguyen: 8476359

Accord - The Catholic Marriage Advisory Service.
(Pre-Marriage Course) 4780866



Here are some thoughts on what the church teaches us and understands marriage to be:

God who created humanity out of love also calls us to love, [love is] the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being. For humanity is created in the image and likeness of God who is himself love.

Since God created them man and woman, their mutual love becomes an image of the absolute and unfailing love with which God loves humanity. It is good, very good, in the Creator's eyes. And this love, which God blesses, is intended to be fruitful and to be realized in the common work of watching over creation: "and God blessed them, and God said to them: 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it.'"

Holy Scripture affirms that man and woman were created for one another: "It is not good that the man should be alone." The woman, "flesh of his flesh," i.e., his counterpart, his equal, his nearest in all things, is given to him by God as a "helpmate"; she thus represents God from whom comes our help. "Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh."

The Lord himself shows that this signifies an unbreakable union of their two lives by recalling what the plan of the Creator had been "in the beginning": "So they are no longer two, but one flesh." *Taken from the Catechism of the Catholic Church.*

Creator God,
You are a mother and a father to us all.
You hold us all equally in your love as children of God.
Grant us the grace to share your love
with other people:
to love and be loved,
to give and to receive,
to trust and to be trusted,
to forgive and to be forgiven.
Help us to be constant in our love.
Help us to live fully in all the roles
we have in family life
and strengthen us with your grace
to be evermore part of your family,
the family of God.
Amen.