



# The Catholic Church in Jersey

## Getting Married in Jersey

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### WEDDING INFORMATION

#### **How much notice is needed?**

In normal circumstances, we ask for at least six months notice to be given if you wish to marry in our churches in order to complete the necessary preparation and paperwork. If you live and worship outside of Jersey, you should first obtain permission from your Parish Priest to be married in the Island. If, once you have booked a time and date for your wedding, you should need to change it or you have a change of contact details, please inform us as soon as possible. Please keep in mind that if, we have not heard from you and we are unable to contact you six months before the wedding date your booking will be cancelled.

#### **What personal preparation is needed?**

Couples wishing to marry in any of our churches are invited to share in the life and worship of the parish. If you are not already attending Mass each Sunday, the clergy will be strongly encouraging you to do so. You will also be required to attend our Marriage Preparation Course of three evening sessions, which are held in the Pastoral Services building next to St. Thomas' Church. These are designed to help you reflect on your future together and to help you to understand what is distinctive about Christian Marriage (a small charge will be made to cover the administration of the course).

For the worthy celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage, the Catholic party or parties are strongly encouraged to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) shortly before the marriage ceremony - it may be a long time since you have been to confession and you may feel nervous about what is involved, but a priest will be only too happy to talk this over with you.

#### **Who will officiate?**

You are welcome to invite either a priest or a deacon to officiate at your wedding. If you are a church-going Christian of another denomination, tell your own minister that you wish to marry a Catholic. Your minister will be welcome to participate in the service.

#### **What happens if one of us is not a Roman Catholic?**

A Catholic marrying a non-Catholic Christian has to seek permission from the priest. A Catholic marrying a non-baptised person must seek a dispensation from the Bishop of Portsmouth, through the priest or deacon whom you ask to officiate at your wedding. In both cases the Catholic party will be required to sign a promise to maintain their own Catholic faith and to baptise and bring up any children from the marriage as Catholics.

#### **What happens if we want to get married in another Parish?**

If you live in Jersey but wish to marry outside of the Island, you must first get permission from a member of the clergy, who will need to prepare the necessary paperwork (a small charge will be made to cover this work). In this instance you are still required to attend a Marriage Preparation Course.

#### **What happens if one of us has been married before?**

If either party has been married before, whether in a Catholic, Anglican or another denomination Church, Registry Office or another Religion, they should discuss this as soon as possible with a member of the clergy to clarify the situation.

#### **What Religious Documents do we need?**

The priest or deacon will complete a "Marriage Enquiry Form", which you will both need to sign. The Catholic party or parties must provide a recent (not more than six months old at the time of the ceremony) copy of their Baptism Certificate, which should be applied for from the parish of baptism. This will normally include details of confirmation. Non-Catholic Christians need to provide some proof of baptism e.g. an original Baptism Certificate or a copy and a Letter of Freedom (this is a statement signed by a parent or guardian saying that to the best of their knowledge you are free to marry). Non Baptised persons will need to provide a Letter of Freedom. Banns are no longer read in Catholic Churches. Civil banns will be posted up in the Registrar's Office.

#### **What Civil documentation is needed?**

Immediately after agreeing with the priest or deacon the time, date and place of your wedding, either one or both of you must visit the office of the SUPERINTENDENT REGISTRAR OF MARRIAGES, (whose office is 10, Royal Square, Tel: 01534 441335, [www.gov.je/Homeaffairs/Registrar](http://www.gov.je/Homeaffairs/Registrar)), which is open from Monday to Friday 9.00a.m. to 12.30p.m. - not Bank Holidays. You will need to take an original or official copy of both your full birth certificates (showing details of parents). If it is not in English, it must be attached to an official English translation. The Registrar's Office will issue you with the procedure guidelines. One month before you are due to be married, you will visit the Registrar's Office again bringing all the same documents (and cheque book) to apply for your licence. Three days before your wedding, when all the papers are complete and fees paid, you will be given your licence from

the Office of the Superintendent Registrar, which you then take to the Registry Office of the Civil Parish where you are getting married. The local Registry Office will then issue the officiating priest or deacon with the marriage certificates, which you will sign during your wedding service. At the end of the service you will be given a signed copy to keep. **NO CHURCH WEDDING CAN TAKE PLACE WITHOUT A CIVIL MARRIAGE LICENCE.**

**If you are getting married in the Republic of Ireland**, it is now necessary to give the civil Registrar in the Republic of Ireland three months notice before the marriage ceremony can take place.

### **What arrangements are needed for the Church?**

Order of Service: It is usual to have an Order of Service printed. The priest or deacon officiating at your wedding will advise you on its content and format and will be able to suggest readings, bidding prayers and hymns. *Please note the Marriage Rite should not be printed.*

Music: To arrange an organist and/or a soloist or choir at any of the churches please call Clive Cooper on 861543. Please note that we do not have a licence for secular music.

Flowers: If you wish to decorate the church, you will need to use your own florist, and **you will be expected to leave the flowers in place** on the Sanctuary after the service as **this forms part of your payment for using the church**. If you have extra decorations e.g. pew ends or archways please ensure they are removed from the Church directly after the service. **Flowers may not be put on the Altar or Font and there must be sufficient access allowed for the clergy on the Sanctuary.** Whatever your requirements, you or your florist should always consult with our own flower arrangers in good time before the wedding to advise them when your wedding is taking place and whether flowers are being provided. Please call Carolyn 746003 (Sacred Heart), or Pat 861540 (St Matthieu).

Confetti: **No Confetti is to be thrown in the Church** and, if used outside, it should be thrown well away from the doors, not on grassed areas and in small amounts only. If it should blow into the Church, you must ensure that it is cleared away before your party leaves the church. **Rice is not permitted.**

Photography and Camcorders: These are permitted during the wedding ceremony, provided they are in a fixed location. The photographer should introduce himself to the celebrant beforehand.

Parking: Please discuss availability at the church of your choice with the priest or deacon. In some cases, if you are expecting a large number of guests, it may be advisable to inform the Honorary Police and request their help with traffic management.

Personnel: Best Man, bridesmaids and ushers are entirely your decision, however, we would strongly advise against bridesmaids or page boys under the age of four as they are inclined to get over awed by the proceedings. Two adult witnesses will also be required to sign the Marriage Certificate along with yourselves and the priest or deacon.

### **What will everything cost?**

Gift Offering to Priest or Deacon: During the period of preparation for your marriage, the priest or deacon will meet with you several times to complete the necessary paperwork, to discuss the meaning of marriage and to conduct a rehearsal. He will process the paperwork and act as the civil and church witness to your marriage. It is customary to make an offering to him for what he has done for you as this forms part of his normal income. The suggested offering is £150. This should be paid to him at the rehearsal in a clearly marked envelope.

Offering to Church: This is a minimum of £300 and represents a contribution towards the significant annual cost of maintaining the church building and meeting day-to-day running costs. This should be paid to the priest or deacon at the rehearsal in a clearly marked envelope. Cheques should be made payable to "PRCDTR Catholic Church in Jersey - West".

Offering for church administration if you are getting married outside Jersey: £50.

Organist's, Soloist/Choir: fee settled in advance by arrangement.

Marriage Preparation Course: this fee is paid to Catholic Pastoral Services.

Fees for Civil Registration: this fee is paid at the Registrar's Offices.

A useful website that gives information about getting married in the Catholic Church can be found on <http://www.gettingmarried.ie>. We hope these notes will help smooth your wedding preparations and enabling you to spend more time thinking of your lifetime commitment to one another. If you have any questions after reading this leaflet, please contact: (town office) Manuela 00 44 (0) 1534 720235, (east office) Jenny 00 44 (0) 1534 853953 or (west office) Deanna on 00 44 (0) 1534 863149.