

GETTING MARRIED IN THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF
ST. JOSEPH'S, ST MARY'S, ST PIUS X.
GUILDFORD



YOUR SPECIAL DAY

Your wedding day is one of the most special days in your life and the members of our communities will do all that we can to help you arrange it as you wish. We hope that this booklet will be a useful aid, as it attempts to outline the Church and legal requirements for a wedding in the Catholic Church

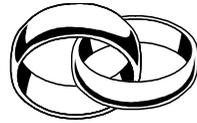
Requirements of the Church

Pastors of souls are obliged to ensure that their own church community provides for the faithful the assistance by which the married state is preserved in its Christian character and develops in perfection.

(Code of Canon law para. 1063 following)

- In the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton it is required that at least six months notice of an intention to marry must be given to the parish.
- Your parish is the local catholic church which has pastoral responsibility for the area in which you live. (not necessarily the church where you worship. If you wish to be married in a parish where you have no residential qualification permission from your own parish must be obtained. This is extremely important if you are returning to your own country for your marriage)
- Evidence of completion of a pre-marriage course. (see below)
- A copy of the Baptismal Certificate must be produced by all Roman Catholics. This must be a new copy as it also acts as a certificate of freedom to marry. (You can obtain this from the church where you were baptised. It is a kindness to enclose a stamped addressed envelope when you write.)
- Further evidence of freedom to marry may be required. (The priest will advise)
- For baptised Christians of other denominations, a baptismal Certificate or other evidence must be provided.
- Permission from the State for your marriage to take place.

ENGAGED COUPLES COURSE



Two or three courses are run each year led by a team of married couples from the parish, working with the priests.

Each course runs over three evenings and a whole day, usually a Sunday.

Engaged couples who attend these courses enjoy them very much and it gives them an opportunity to take some time out from all the hustle and bustle of wedding preparations to talk to each other about their relationship.

No one can tell you how to have a successful marriage. There is no magic formula and all marriages are unique. The course merely gives you the opportunity to explore your hopes and fears for the future and to ask yourself very seriously:

Is this the person I want to share the rest of my life with, "for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish till death do us part"?

(an administration fee of £50 is asked if your wedding is not taking place in the Guildford Catholic Parishes)

THE WEDDING DAY

The details of the service need to be worked out between yourself and the priest/deacon who is conducting your wedding. Is a nuptial mass appropriate on this occasion or not? We will try to make your wedding service something you can look back on with joy. Besides thinking of the music you will have, you need to make a careful choice of appropriate passages from scripture. You will be provided with many examples of readings, but the choice is limitless. Time also needs to be taken to prepare some Intercessions (Bidding Prayers), which should include things you particularly wish to pray for on your wedding day. You need to think of people who can read for you and to lead the Intercessions, as well as your witnesses, ushers etc.

Music



You are welcome to invite your own organist or musicians.

We are able to provide an organist who will be able to help you choose the music if required. (please contact the office of the Guildford church where your marriage is taking place)

An organist is entitled to double his fee if the service is being recorded, and can similarly refuse to play if he has not seen the copyright licence. *(See note about copyright on page 5)*

Flowers



At St Joseph's you will need to make your own arrangements about flowers in church. There are a number of display stands available which you could use if required and you are welcome to come in and see them when making your plans.

(For St Mary's and St Pius X, please contact the parish office.)

Parking



St Mary's and St Pius X have their own car park. Unfortunately, parking at St. Joseph's on Saturdays is very difficult. The car park under the church belongs to Guildford Borough Council and the church has only 10 spaces. During the week the car park is used for contract parking, and on Saturdays it is open to the public on a "pay and display" system. There are other car parks nearby. You should advise your guests to allow plenty of time to find parking spaces. Alternatively, you can come to an arrangement with the Guildford Car Parks Authority to have use of the open part of the car park below the church, for a fee based on the number of spaces there and the cost of a day's parking. Their telephone number is 01483 444531. Also, you would have to arrange your own attendants down there to prevent members of the public using your reserved spaces.

Fees

The Catholic Parishes in Guildford do not have set fees for a wedding. However, it is customary to make an offering to the priest/deacon who conducts the wedding. The size of the offering is for you to decide and should be according to your means. A percentage of the total cost would be appropriate.

Legal Requirement to Marry in England & Wales (From 2009)

Before a couple can marry they need the permission of the State. To obtain this you must both give notice of your intention to marry, in person, to the Superintendent Registrar of the registration district in which you reside and you must have lived in this district for at least seven days before you apply. A £30 fee is payable for each notice. Two superintendent registrar's certificates (the marriage authority) must be produced before a marriage may be solemnised.

You will need to give a minimum of 16 days notice of your intention to marry, after which the certificates may be issued. **The Marriage Authority Certificates MUST be given to the Priest/Deacon who is conducting the wedding, as soon as they are obtained.**

A Notice of Marriage is valid for twelve months.

If the church where you are to marry is in a different registration district to where you live, you need to prove to the registrar that the church is your normal place of worship. If you cannot do this, you will be required to give notice in the registration district in which the church is situated, after having met the necessary residency requirements.

You will find the Guildford Registrar of Births, Marriage and Deaths at Artington House, Portsmouth Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 5DZ Tel: 01483 562841.

If you live in separate registration districts you will need to visit both registry offices.

It is a legal offence, punishable by imprisonment for a priest to marry you without the Marriage Authority Certificates! Even if you and all your guests are assembled in the Church, the wedding cannot go ahead without them.

These legal requirements are applicable in England and Wales only. If you plan to marry in any other country, including Scotland and Ireland, you must check the requirements there.

The church has personnel authorised by the state to conduct marriages on their behalf. The fee payable to the Authorised person at the time of the wedding is £47. There is also a fee of £3.50 for the Marriage Certificate.

Please bring the payment for these concepts — as well as the organist fee, if arranged through the Parish Office — to the Rehearsal.

Video and Photography



Your official photographer is allowed to take photographs in the church as long as he/she doesn't get in the way or distract attention from the service, and similarly with video recordings.

However with sound or vision recording you may be breaking copyright laws by recording texts, hymns and music. St. Joseph's Church holds licences from Calamus (Licence No. 0008) and from Christian Copyright Licensing (Licence No. 429228). When you have decided on your readings and hymns please check with the parish office if they are covered by these licences. If they are, you must ensure that the licence numbers are printed on the service sheet together with the name of the author of the text. If you are not marrying in St. Joseph's Church, do check with the priest in the parish where you are to celebrate your wedding and if they don't have a licence you can apply for one to :

Christian Copyright Licensing
Tel: 01323 417711
The licence will cost @ £11.75

For more information about copyright licences for St Joseph's, please check with Kevin Burr who is in the parish office on Mondays.

St Mary's Rydes Hill holds licences from Calamus (Lic No. 0551) and from Christian Copyright Licensing (Licence No. 142242 and PRS No. 724926).

St Pius X holds licences from Calamus (Lic No. 0277) and from Christian Copyright Licensing (Licence No. 932074).

EVERY WISH AND BLESSING

We, the priests, deacons and people of The Guildford Community, are witnesses of something special each time a wedding takes place in our churches, or even when we only prepare a couple for a wedding that is to take place elsewhere, sometimes on the other side of the world.

We would like to assure you of our prayers, not only for a successful and happy day, but also for a fulfilling life together for the rest of your lives. When you get married your marriage partner becomes an important part of your way to God. Each sign of love within your relationship can sustain, heal and help you to grow in holiness.

We hope that you will be very happy together and as one of the special blessings from the marriage service says *"...and may you live to see your children's children, and after a happy old age, may you be granted fullness of life with the saints in the kingdom of heaven."*

If you have any further enquiries, please contact the parish office:

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