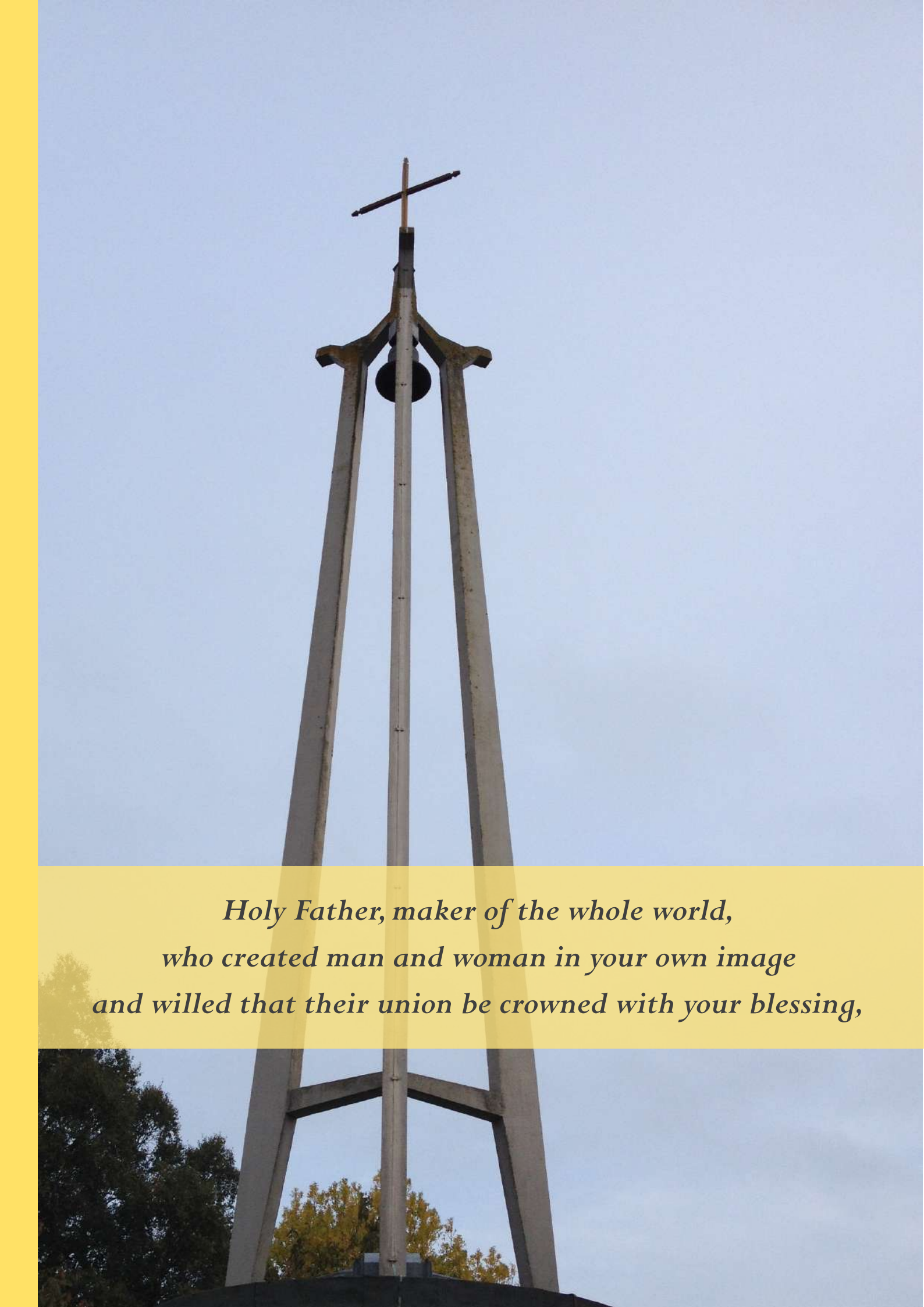




**Information for those who are preparing
for the Sacrament of Marriage**





*Holy Father, maker of the whole world,
who created man and woman in your own image
and willed that their union be crowned with your blessing,*



I and the parishioners of the parish wish to congratulate you on your decision to get married. We offer you our warmest good wishes and prayers for your future life together. There is a lot to think about as you plan your wedding. If you reside within the boundaries of the parish you need to make an appointment with me before planning any dates. You need to do this whether or not you wish your marriage to take place at our church, or elsewhere; there is still paperwork to be completed. Therefore, the sooner you make an appointment the better.

In the meantime, we hope that the following information will be of help to you.

Parish Priest

THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE



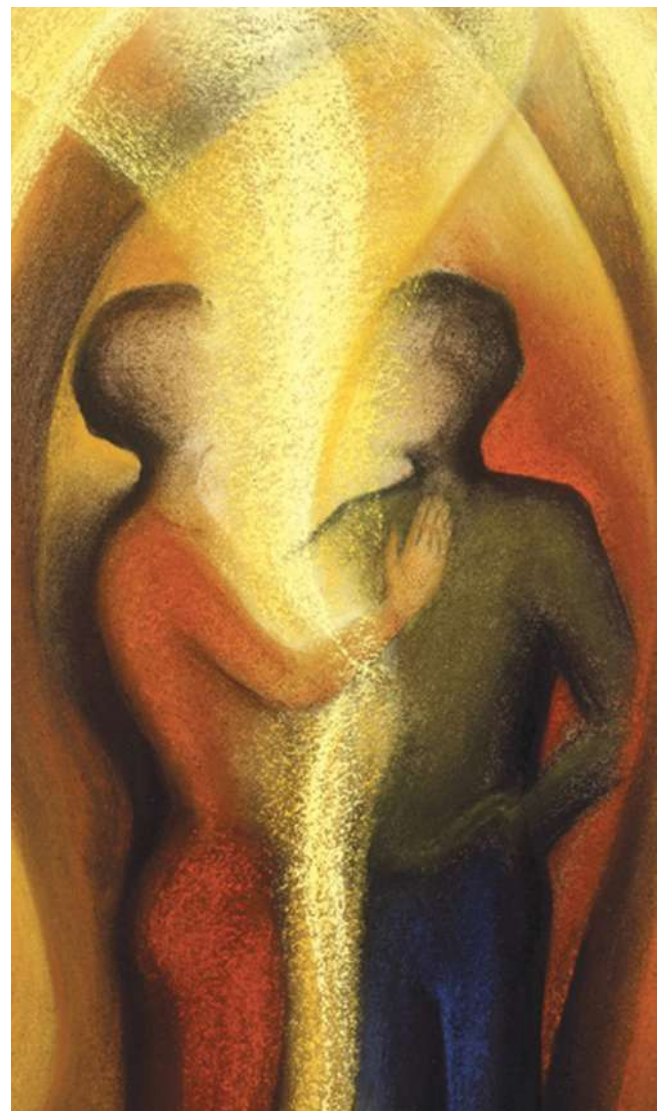
Catholics believe that marriage comes as a gift from the hand of God. The Catholic vision of marriage is rooted in Sacred Scripture and is expressed in the teachings and practices of the Church. It has these main elements:

- Marriage unites a couple in faithful and mutual love.
- Marriage opens a couple to giving life.
- Marriage is a way to respond to God's call to holiness.
- Marriage calls the couple to be a sign of Christ's love in the world.

This booklet provides more information about specific dimensions of Catholic marriage.

MARRIAGE

The roots of the institution of marriage lie in our nature. Male and female we have been created, and written into our nature is this pattern of complementarity and fertility. Christian teaching fills out this pattern and reveals its deepest meaning. Understood as a lifelong commitment between a man and a woman, and for the creation and upbringing of children, marriage is an expression of our fundamental humanity. Its status in law is the prudent fruit of experience, for the good of the spouses and the good of the family. In this way society esteems the married couple as the source and guardians of the next generation. As an institution marriage is at the foundation of our society.



MARRIAGE AS A SACRAMENT

Catholics view marriage as a sacrament in that it signifies and makes present Christ's love in the world. The special grace of marriage is to sanctify the bond between a man and a woman so that it becomes, through the Holy Spirit, "an even richer union... on all levels."

[The Christian Family in the Modern World, paragraph 18, 1981.]

Marriage offers a means of participating in the infinite love of Christ for his Church. The sacrament binds a couple together and endows them with the grace to grow in faith, to welcome children, and to support each other through times of difficulty and change. Catholics also recognise that, because of its prominence as an institution, marriage is a uniquely powerful means of demonstrating the love of Christ to the wider world. It is therefore charged with immense social significance as the basis for strong families, strong relationships, and a strong society.

REFLECTION

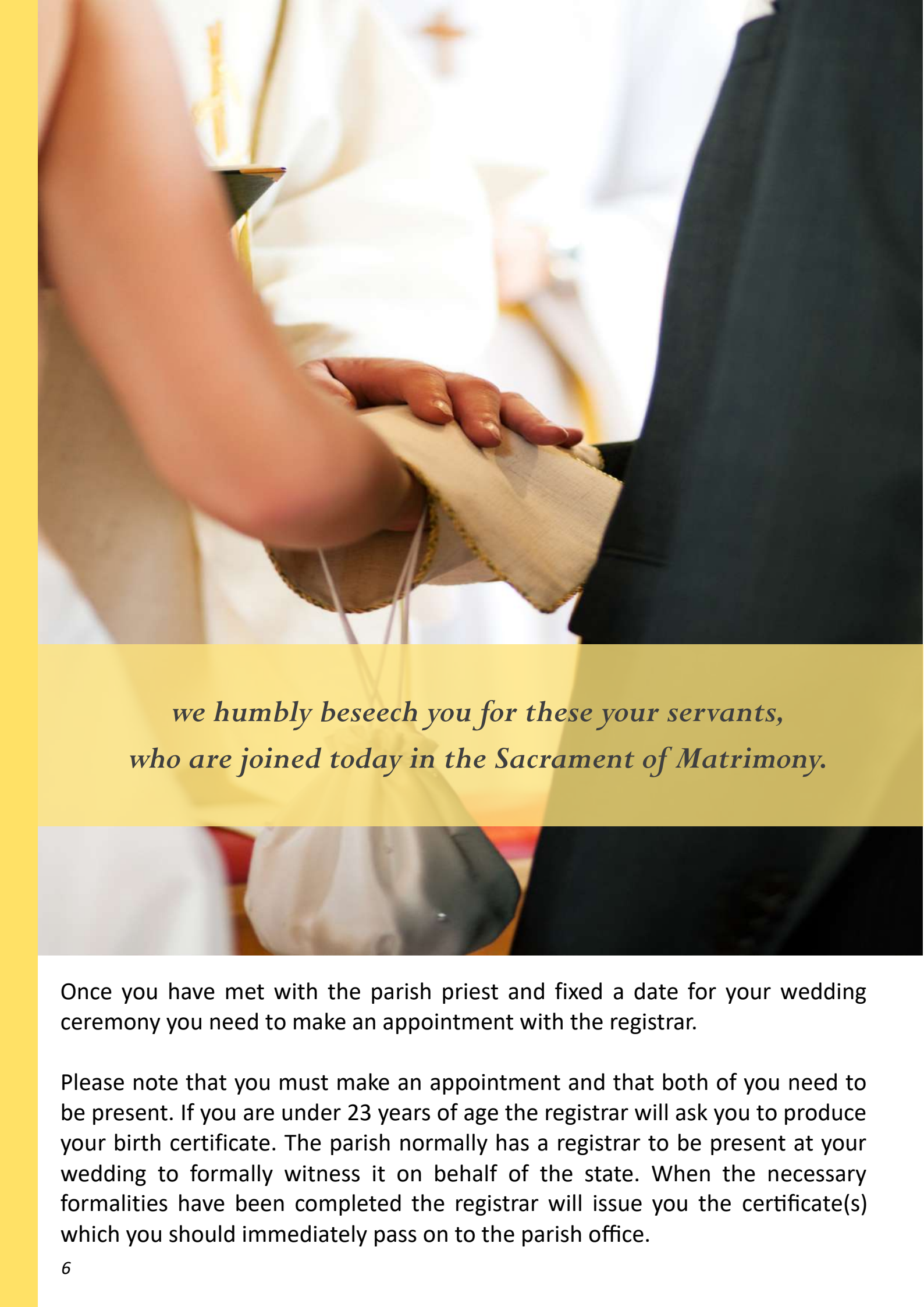
"The Church has consistently argued that the meaning of marriage is not set by society alone. The essential meaning of marriage is given in God's plan of creation. In the beginning God created human beings 'male and female' (Genesis 1:27). It is from the personal union of man and woman that new life is born and it is within the loving context of such a relationship that a child can be welcomed and nurtured. Marital love involves an essential complementarity of male and female."

FAMILIARIS CONSORTIO: POPE JOHN PAUL II'S 1981

APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION ON THE FAMILY:



Marriage in the Christian Church, also called matrimony, is the "covenant by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life and which is ordered by its nature to the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring", and which "has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament between the Baptised."



*we humbly beseech you for these your servants,
who are joined today in the Sacrament of Matrimony.*

Once you have met with the parish priest and fixed a date for your wedding ceremony you need to make an appointment with the registrar.

Please note that you must make an appointment and that both of you need to be present. If you are under 23 years of age the registrar will ask you to produce your birth certificate. The parish normally has a registrar to be present at your wedding to formally witness it on behalf of the state. When the necessary formalities have been completed the registrar will issue you the certificate(s) which you should immediately pass on to the parish office.



LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND DOCUMENTATION

NON EU FOREIGN NATIONALS

Where one or both of the parties to an intended marriage is a non-EEA national, the parties will each have to obtain a superintendent registrar's certificate ('SRC') to authorise the marriage. Please consult your local Register Office for more details.

Liverpool

St George's Hall (Heritage Entrance)
St George's Place, Liverpool L1 1JJ
☎ 0151 225 5706

Sefton

Crosby Town Hall
Great Georges Road, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 1RB
☎ 0151 934 3047

Sefton

Southport Register Office
Corporation Street, Southport PR8 1DA
☎ 0151 934 2011/2013

Knowsley

District Council Office
High Street, Prescot L34 3LD
☎ 0151 443 5210

Halton

Halton Register Office
Runcorn Town Hall, Heath Road, Runcorn WA7 5TN
☎ 0151 907 8307

St Helens

St Helens Town Hall
Victoria Square, St Helens WA10 1HP
☎ 01744 676 789

Warrington

The Register Office
Museum Street, Warrington WA1 1JX
☎ 01925 442 762

Wigan

Wigan and Leigh Register Office
Wigan Life Centre, Wiend, Wigan WN1 1NH
☎ 01942 489 003

Lancashire

Chorley Registration Office
Devonshire House, Devonshire Road, Chorley PR7 2BY
☎ 0300 123 6705

Lancashire

Ormskirk Registration Office
Charter House, Derby Street, Ormskirk L39 2DF
☎ 0300 123 6705

Lancashire

Preston Registration Office
Lancashire Rose Suite, Bow Lane, Preston PR1 8SE
☎ 0300 123 6705

Isle of Man

Civil Registry, Registries Building
Deemsters Walk, Bucks Road, Douglas IM1 3AR
☎ 01624 687 039

A marriage cannot legally be celebrated without these documents.



MARRIAGE BY CERTIFICATE

This is a blue form. It is a certificate giving the priest or deacon permission to receive your vows and for the appointed person to record them at the church, on the day.

Couples living in the same districts will require one blue form.

Couples living in different districts may require two blue forms.

The fee for the above certificate rises each April. At the date of writing, January 2017, it is £35 if you live in one district or twice that if you are living in different districts. Please contact your local registry office for further information.

These fees are payable to “The Superintendent Registrar”.

SERVICES OF THE REGISTRAR AT THE CHURCH

Charge for the resident approved person (registrar): please check with parish.

This price includes a copy of the marriage certificate.

Additional copies will cost £5.



LEGAL FEES FOR MARRIAGES

CHURCH FEES FOR MARRIAGES

The Catholic Church does not charge for the sacraments.

However, we do ask for a minimum contribution to cover the use of the church.

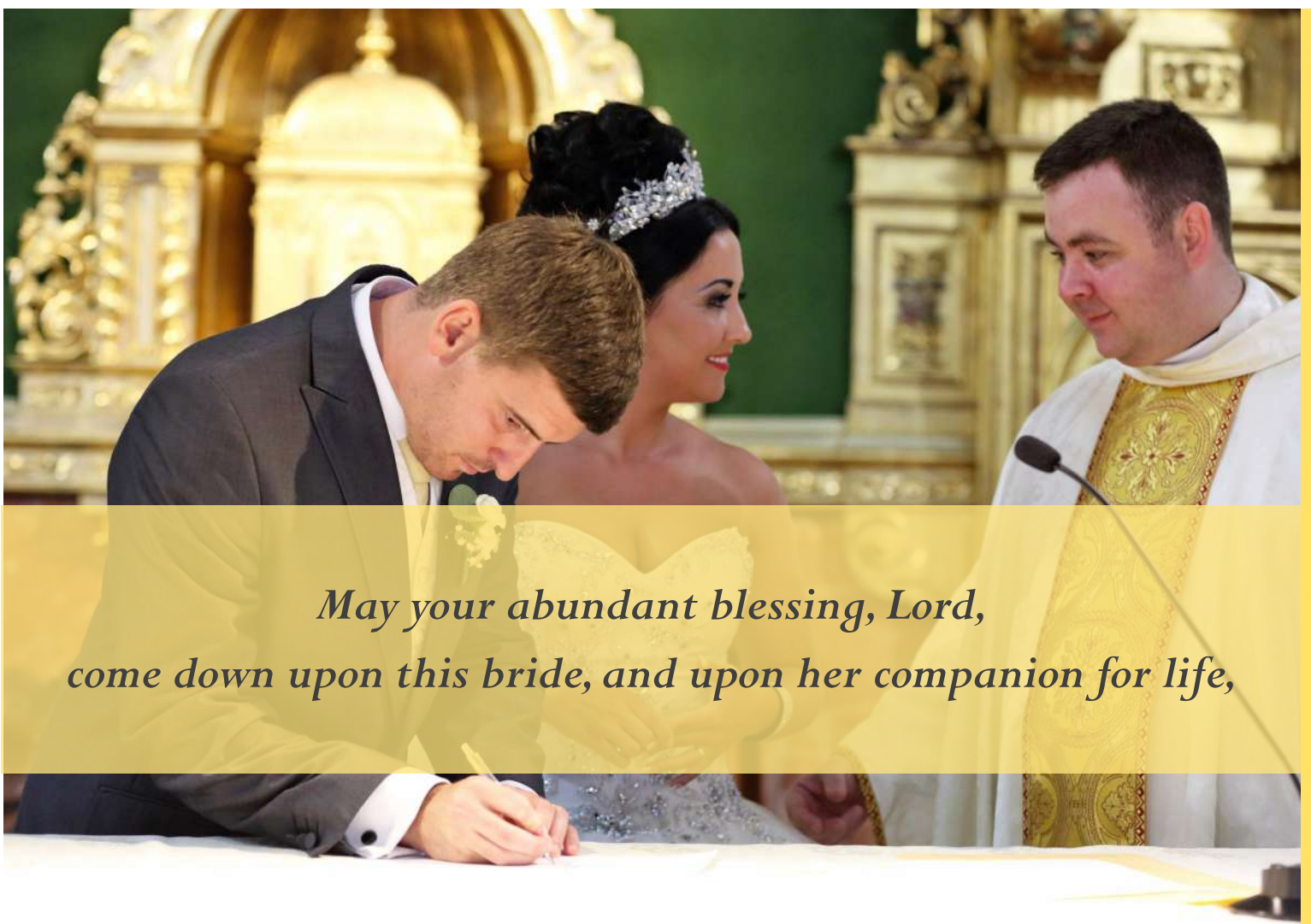
Priests do not charge fees but do welcome personal donations.

In deciding this, you should keep in mind the time he will have spent with you both, leading up to the ceremony and on the day itself.

Should this be a source of worry for you, please discuss this with the priest.

There is normally a fee for the organist.

Please check this information with your parish priest.



*May your abundant blessing, Lord,
come down upon this bride, and upon her companion for life,*



*and may the power of your Holy Spirit
set their hearts aflame from on high,*

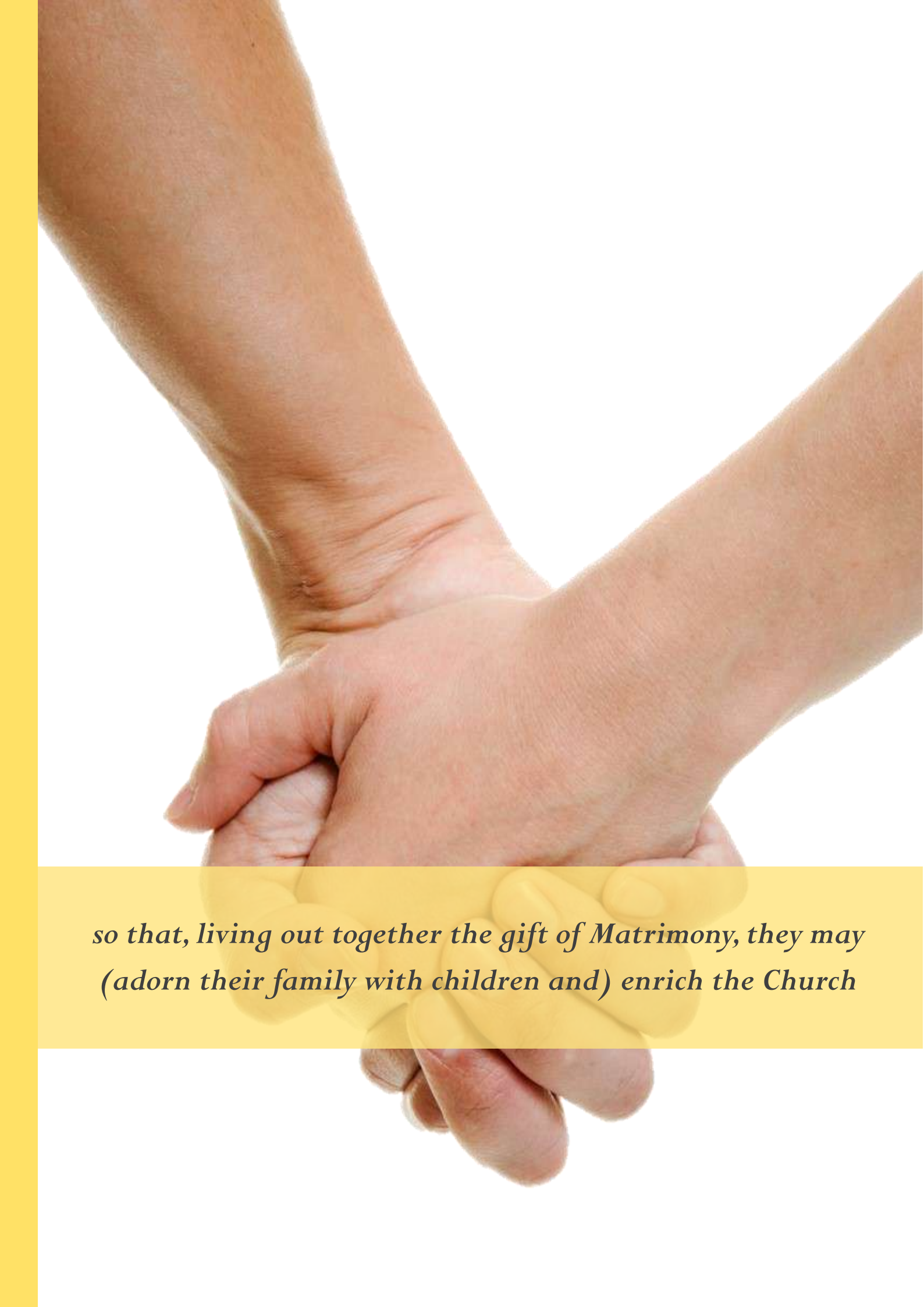
Many couples choose to get married abroad every year and it is perfectly possible to get married in a Catholic church, but both the civil and ecclesiastical procedures are a little more complicated as a result.

So please allow at least 6 months to complete the formalities.



GETTING MARRIED ABROAD

- First of all you will need to establish that the church is willing to host your wedding ceremony and to book the date. You may do this yourselves or you may choose to obtain the services of a wedding planner in the locality of the church. Please obtain the postal address of the church in which you intend to marry.
- You will also need to establish what is required for marriage, according to the civil law of the country in which you intend to marry, and to ensure that you can meet these requirements.
- Once you have booked a date for your wedding, you will need to contact your local parish priest here in the UK to inform him of your intention to get married abroad, so that he can compile the necessary documentation required by Church law.
- At least one of you must be Catholic.
- You will need to complete a prenuptial enquiry form in your local parish and to provide certain other documents.
- If you are Catholic you will need to provide a copy of your baptismal certificate dated no more than 6 months prior to the wedding.
- If you were baptised in another Christian tradition, you will also need to provide a copy of your baptismal certificate, but this does not need to be recently dated.
- Catholics may additionally be asked to obtain letters from parishes where they have lived since the age of 16 attesting to their freedom to marry.
- If you belong to another religious denomination, or have no particular religious adherence, you will need to have statements signed by two people who have known you for a long time, such as your parents, who can testify to your freedom to marry.
- If your wedding involves a Catholic and someone who is not Catholic, then the Catholic will need permission or a dispensation to marry. This is normally granted readily if there is no problem about the Catholic upbringing of any children the couple may have.
- Couples are normally required to complete a marriage preparation course, either in their local parish or given by organisations such as Marriage Care.
- Please check with your parish priest what course is available in your area.

A close-up photograph of two hands clasped together in a firm, supportive grip. The hands are light-skinned and appear to be of different ages or sizes. The background is a solid, bright yellow. A semi-transparent yellow rectangular box is positioned horizontally across the lower middle of the image, containing text.

*so that, living out together the gift of Matrimony, they may
(adorn their family with children and) enrich the Church*



MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Getting married and staying married is one of the greatest challenges to adults today.

Enhancing a couple's mutual understanding at the time they are planning to marry greatly improves their chances of a lasting and satisfying life together.

In order to celebrate any of the sacraments you are required to undertake some preparation. Couples are therefore asked to attend a marriage preparation course. The course encourages you as a couple to further explore your relationship and to become more aware of each other, the things you bring to the marriage and the way in which your relationship works.

**Please check if your parish holds its own marriage preparation course.
If not, please book onto a course (details below).**

Marriage preparation courses start promptly at 10am and finish around 4pm (lunch is provided). The courses are run by trained facilitators who work on a voluntary basis. They do not charge for their services so as not to exclude anyone, but they do ask the people they work with for voluntary contributions. We therefore suggest couples attending a marriage preparation course to make a small voluntary contribution of £50 per couple, or whatever amount you are able to give. The course aims to be relaxed and informal through the use of presentations and discussions, questionnaires and personal input. You will have plenty of opportunity to discuss issues both with other couples and just between yourselves.

**To book a course please visit
www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/marriage-preparation**

or contact:
Mrs Maureen O'Brien
Pastoral Formation Department, Archdiocese of Liverpool
0151 522 1044 or m.obrien@rcaol.co.uk



*In happiness may they praise you, O Lord,
in sorrow may they seek you out;*

PRENUPTIAL ENQUIRY

At their initial meeting with the priest the couple are asked to complete some sections of the prenuptial enquiry form. This is then signed after the couple have completed their preparation and all other documentation has been received.

BAPTISM/CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATES

Catholics must provide a valid baptism certificate. This can be obtained from the parish where you were baptised. It is often best to post your request, giving the date of the baptism, your address at the time and the names of your parents. Please enclose a self-addressed envelope.

If you have been confirmed and this is not mentioned on the baptismal certificate you should, if possible, obtain a certificate of confirmation from the parish where you were confirmed. This may well be different to the one you were baptised at. Please enclose a self-addressed envelope.

Baptised non-Catholics are also required to provide evidence of their baptism.



LETTER OF FREEDOM

Those to be married are also required to provide a letter of freedom from the parish priest of any parish in which they have lived for more than six months since the age of 14. Please discuss this with the parish priest.

Non-Catholics are also asked to produce a note from either parent saying that their son or daughter is free to marry.

PERMISSIONS

If either of you are under the age of eighteen you need the written consent of your parents or legal guardian.

For a marriage to be celebrated in our parish at least one of the couple would normally be resident within the parish boundaries. However, if you have a good reason to be married here, you may do so, with permission from your own parish priest.

If your marriage is to take place in a different diocese, whether that be in the UK or abroad, you need the permission of the bishop. Therefore the paper work needs to be sent to the archdiocesan chancellor who will deal with this and then forward it to the place where the marriage is to take place. It is advisable that you keep copies of all the documents.

REGISTRATION OF THE MARRIAGE

Once your marriage has taken place it is entered into the legal registers. You will be given a copy of the certificate on the day of the wedding. Should you need any further copies of your marriage certificate, you can obtain them from the Registrar's Office where you went to order your marriage licence. Your marriage is also recorded in the marriage register kept at the parish office and in the baptism register of the church where you were baptised.

THREE FORMS OF THE RITE OF MARRIAGE



The Catholic Church provides three different forms of celebrating the Rite of Marriage.

1

When two Catholics are marrying,
the celebration will normally take place within a Mass.

2

Marriage Service: when two Catholics are marrying or
when a Catholic marries another baptised Christian.

3

Marriage Service: for a Catholic marrying
someone who is a non-Christian.

You should choose one of these forms in conversation with the priest or deacon who will witness your marriage vows.

A very good way to know what the Catholic Church believes is to participate in its worship. This is especially true in the case of marriage. The Catholic wedding rite, whether it is celebrated within a Mass or not, is a powerful teaching tool.

This is experienced in many ways, for example:

- in the active role taken by the couple who, in the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church, are the “ministers” of the sacrament;
- in the fact that the wedding takes place in a church, signifying it is a sacred action;
- in the scriptural readings which speak of God’s plan for marriage and his presence to the couple;
- in the music which lifts our thoughts and feelings in a prayerful, joyful way;
- in the homily given by the priest or deacon addressing the couple and their guests about the meaning of marriage as well as its joys and challenges;
- in the vows and exchange of rings in which the couple express their freely-given consent, promising to create a loving and lifelong union of permanence, fidelity, and openness to children;
- in the various prayers and blessings through which the Church solemnises and supports the journey on which the couple is embarking.

Thoughtful, prayerful planning and participation in your Catholic wedding ceremony is a decision that will bring many blessings to your married life long after you have forgotten all the other decisions you made about flowers, photographs, and favours on the tables!

Once the sacrament of marriage has taken place it cannot be repeated, unless an annulment has been received. Not all marriages are sacramental, so it is always worth discussing your situation with a priest. Catholics are able to celebrate the sacrament of marriage with a non-Christian person with a special dispensation from their bishop.

Instinctively, Catholics like to set great moments in their lives within the framework of the Mass so, when two Catholics marry, it is very appropriate for them to choose to have a Nuptial Mass. There can surely be no better start to a marriage than for the couple to receive Holy Communion together.

However, if yours is a mixed marriage, i.e. a marriage between a Catholic and a non-Catholic, you may have a Nuptial Mass if you so wish but you should give careful thought to your choice. You will need to remember that the Mass may be very unfamiliar to non-Catholics who may not be invited to share in Holy Communion, though they are most welcome to receive a Blessing. You may wish to talk this question over with the priest before making a decision.

However, the choice is yours. There is no obligation to have a Nuptial Mass and you may, if you wish, choose to have the Marriage Service.



*may they have the joy of your
presence to assist them in their toil,
and know that you are near to comfort them in their need;*

READINGS

The readings at a Catholic wedding liturgy are a proclamation of God's Word and of the Church's faith about marriage. For this reason, they are limited to readings from the scriptures (the Bible). There are nine options for the first reading from the Old Testament, each of these are coupled with a Psalm, which can be read by the person who has read the First Reading. There are sixteen options for the second reading from the New Testament. There are twelve choices for the Gospel. The Gospel is always read by the priest or deacon. It is preceded by the Gospel Acclamation, which should be read by the person who has read the second reading.



You choose one from each of these four categories.

You may find it helpful to reflect prayerfully on each reading and to choose those that speak to your hopes and dreams for your Christian marriage.

READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Each reading is paired with a recommended psalm.

Reading		Psalm
Genesis 1:26-28.31	<i>Male and female he created them.</i>	32
Genesis 2:18-24	<i>They become one body.</i>	148
Genesis 24:48-51. 58-67	<i>Isaac loved Rebekah, and so he was consoled for the loss of his mother.</i>	144
Tobit 7:6-14	<i>The Lord of heaven favour you, my child, and grant you his grace and peace.</i>	32
Tobit 8:4-8	<i>Bring us to old age together.</i>	102
Proverbs 31:10–13, 19–20, 30–31	<i>The woman who fears the Lord is the one to praise.</i>	
Song of Songs 2:8-10. 14. 16; 8:6-7	<i>Love is strong as Death.</i>	127
Ecclesiasticus 26:1-4. 13-15	<i>Like the sun rising is the beauty of a good wife in a well-kept house.</i>	33
Jeremiah 31:31-34	<i>I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the House of Judah.</i>	111

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 32:12. 18. 20-22 r.5

The Lord fills the earth with his love.

Ps 33:2-9 r.2 or 9

*I will bless the Lord at all times. or
Taste and see that the Lord is good.*

Ps 102:1-2. 8. 13. 17-18 r. 8 or 17

*The Lord is the compassion and love. or
The love of the Lord is everlasting
upon those who hold him in fear.*

Ps 111:1-9 r.1

*Happy the man who takes delight in the
Lord's commands. or
Alleluia!*

Ps 127:1-5 r.1 or 4

*O blessed are those who fear the Lord! or
Indeed this shall be blessed the man who
fears the Lord.*

Ps 144:8-10.15. 17-18 r.9

How good is the Lord to all.

Ps 148:1-4, 9-14 r.12

*Praise the name of the Lord. or
Alleluia!*

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Romans 8:31-35. 37-39

*Nothing can come between us and the
love of Christ?*

Romans 12:1-2. 9-18

*Offering your living bodies as a holy
sacrifice, truly pleasing to him.*

Romans 12:1-2. 9-13 (shorter)

*Offering your living bodies as a holy
sacrifice, truly pleasing to God.*

Romans 15:1-3. 5-7. 13

Treat each other as Christ.

1 Corinthians 6:13-15. 17-20

Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8

*If I am without love, it will do me no good
whatever.*

Ephesians 4:1-6

One Body and one Spirit.

Ephesians 5:2. 21-33

*This mystery has many implications and I
am saying it applies to Christ and the
Church.*

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT CONTINUED

Ephesians 5:2 25-32 (shorter)	<i>This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.</i>
Philippians 4:4-9	<i>The God of peace will be with you.</i>
Colossians 3:12-17	<i>Over all these, to keep them together and complete them, put on love.</i>
Hebrews 13:1-4. 5-6	<i>Marriage is to be honoured by all.</i>
1 Peter 3:1-9	<i>You should all agree among your selves and be sympathetic; love the brothers.</i>
1 John 3:18-24	<i>Our love is to be something real and active.</i>
1 John 4:7-12	<i>God is love.</i>
Apocalypse 19:1. 5-9 (Appropriate for Easter Season)	<i>Happy are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb</i>

ALLELUIA VERSE AND VERSES BEFORE THE GOSPEL

cf Psalm 133 (134):3	<i>May the Lord bless you from Sion, he who made both heaven and earth.</i>
1 John 4:7	<i>Everyone who loves is begotten by God, and knows God.</i>
1 John 4:8. 11	<i>God is love; let us love one another as God has loved us.</i>
1 John 4:12	<i>As long as we love one another God will live in us, and his love will be complete in us.</i>
1 John 4:16	<i>Anyone who lives in love lives in God, and God lives in him.</i>

GOSPEL

Each reading is paired with a recommended Gospel Acclamation.

Reading		Gospel Accl.
Matthew 5:1–12	<i>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.</i>	3
Matthew 5:13-16	<i>You are the light of the world.</i>	4
Matthew 7:21. 24-29	<i>He built his house on rock.</i>	5
Matthew 7:21. 24-25 (shorter)	<i>He built his house on rock.</i>	5
Matthew 19:3-6	<i>What God has united, man must not divide.</i>	2
Matthew 22:35-40	<i>This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it.</i>	3
Mark 10:6-9	<i>They are no longer two but one body.</i>	2
John 2:1-11	<i>This was the first of the signs given by Jesus - at Cana in Galilee.</i>	4
John 15:9-12	<i>Remain in my love</i>	5
John 15:12-16	<i>What I command you is to love one another.</i>	3
John 17:20-26	<i>May they be completely one.</i>	4
John 17:20-23 (shorter)	<i>May they be completely one.</i>	4





THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

At every Wedding Service, the Prayer of the Faithful is offered. This is the moment when prayers are offered by the congregation specifically for you and your family. A prayer might recognise the absence due to illness or death of a parent or grandparent, or the needs of children already born to your relationship.

After the Prayer of the Faithful comes the Hail Mary which is optional and does not need to be included. If you keep it in, consider including the text in your printed order of service so everyone can join in.

The following are three examples that precede the Prayer of the Faithful or you may write your own. Feel free to mix and match. Please discuss with the priest or deacon.

Priest or deacon:

Dear brothers and sister let us accompany this new family with our prayers. That the mutual love of this couple may grow daily and that God in his kindness will sustain all families throughout the world.

Priest or deacon:

Dear brothers and sisters, as we call to mind the special gift of grace and charity by which God has been pleased to crown and consecrated the love of our sister N. and our brother N., let us commend them to the Lord.

Priest or deacon:

In the love of man and wife, God shows us a wonderful reflection of his own eternal love. Today N. and N. have dedicated themselves to one another in unending love. They will share with one another all that life brings. Let us ask God to bless them in the years ahead, and to be with them in all the circumstances of their marriage.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL (SUGGESTION ONE)

Reader: That these faithful Christians, N. and N., newly joined in Holy Matrimony, may always enjoy health and well-being, let us pray to the Lord.

(Pause) Lord, we ask you:

All: hear our prayer.

Reader: That he will bless their covenant as he chose to sanctify marriage at Cana in Galilee, let us pray to the Lord.

(Pause) Lord, we ask you:

All: hear our prayer.

Reader: That they be granted perfect and fruitful love, peace and strength, and that they bear faithful witness to the name of Christian; let us pray to the Lord.

(Pause) Lord, we ask you:

All: hear our prayer.

Reader: That the Christian people may grow in virtue day by day and that all who are burdened by any need may receive the help of grace from above, let us pray to the Lord.

(Pause) Lord, we ask you:

All: hear our prayer.

Reader: That the grace of the Sacrament will be renewed by the Holy Spirit in all married persons here present, let us pray to the Lord.

(Pause) Lord, we ask you:

All: hear our prayer.

Reader: Let us ask Mary to pray with us: **Hail Mary...**

Priest or deacon:

Graciously pour out upon this husband and wife, O Lord, the Spirit of your love, to make them one heart and one soul, so that nothing whatever may divide those you have joined and no harm come to those you have filled with your blessing.

Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL (SUGGESTION TWO)

Reader: (The response to our bidding prayers is “Lord, graciously hear us.”)
Christ is present to N. and N. in this Sacrament of Matrimony. We pray that He will continue to make his presence felt throughout their lives. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader: May the grace given to N. and N. in this Sacrament of Matrimony be always active in them. May it inspire them when life seems dull and strengthen them in times of trial. May it give them understanding in moments of tension, and fill them with gratitude when all goes well.

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader: May the love of N. and N. grow large enough to embrace the children God may send them. May they, in their turn, bring ever-greater happiness to their parents.

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader: By this marriage our two families have been united. May all of us, and particularly the parents of N. and N., increase in affection for one another, and find in one another a source of help and strength.

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader: May all married people here with us be reminded of the joy of their own wedding day. May they give thanks for all the happiness they have known. May each day find them ever more devoted to one another.

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader: We pray for those of our dear ones who have departed this life, especially N. and N. May God give them eternal rest. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader: Let us commend ourselves and all God's people, living and dead, to Mary, Mother of God and wife of Joseph the carpenter.

Hail Mary...

Reader: Let us now pray for a while in silence for N. and N.
Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Priest or deacon:

Listen, O Lord, to the prayers we offer for N. and N.

May their love for one another be a never-failing reminder of your own love for us all.

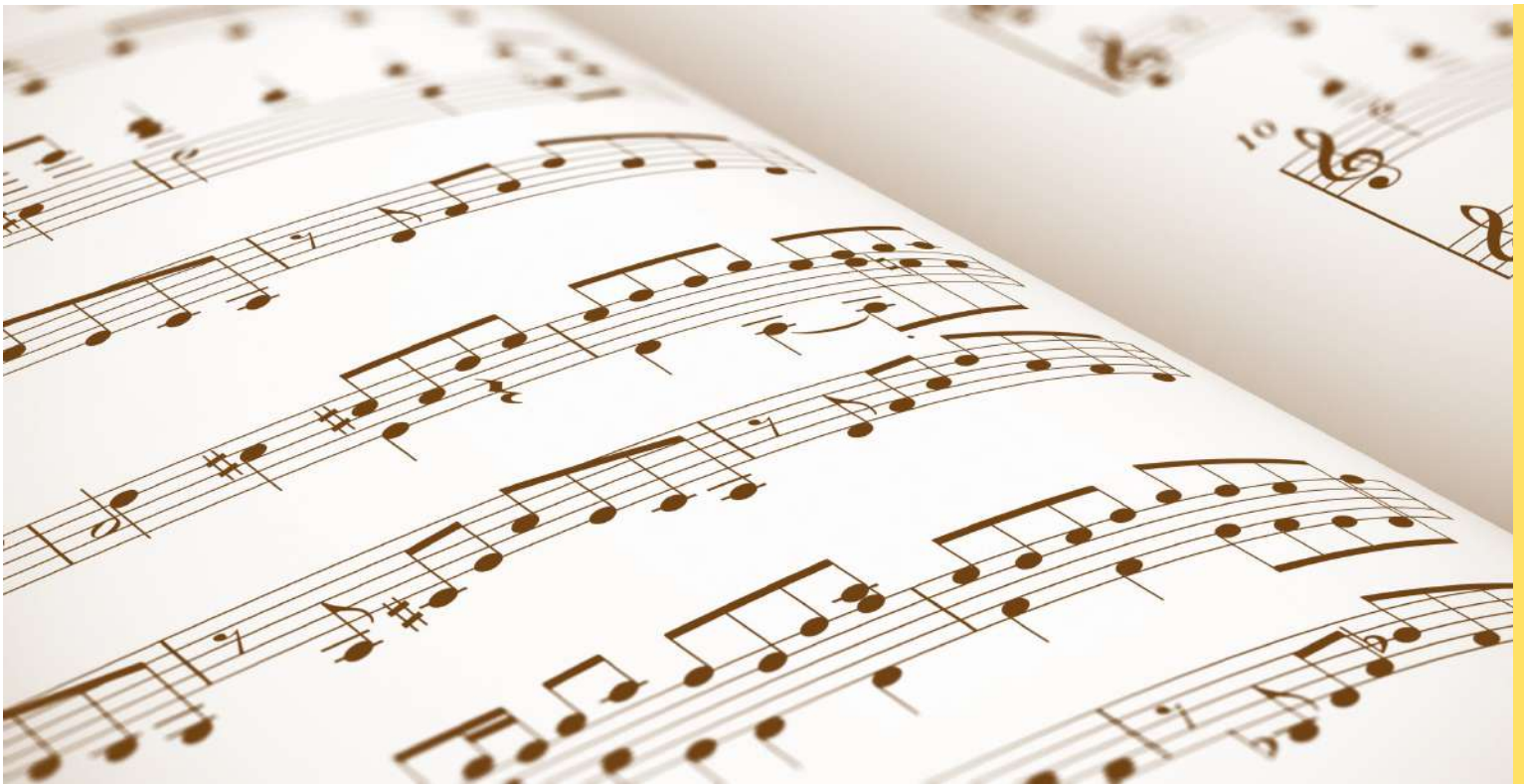
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



*let them pray to you in the holy assembly
and bear witness to you in the world,*



Apart from the traditional marches, only religious music can be used in church. You may wish to arrange for the services of an organist for your wedding. If so, please contact the parish office who will arrange this for you.



PROCESSIONAL MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

The Bridal March	Wagner
Trumpet Voluntary	Clarke
Te Deum Prelude	Charpentier
Trumpet Tune	Purcell
Overture - from the Royal Fireworks Music	Handel
La Réjouissance - from the Royal Fireworks Music	Handel

WEDDING HYMN SUGGESTIONS

The numbers given are those of the hymn book
“Liturgical Hymns Old and New”.

Morning has broken	476
All things bright and beautiful	125
Give me joy in my heart	274
Bind us together, Lord	169
Jerusalem	132
Praise my soul	576
Guide me, O thou great redeemer	307
Love divine, all loves excelling	461
Lord of all hopefulness	450
Shine Jesus Shine	453
One more step along the world I go	Supplement
Amazing grace	131
Immortal, invisible God only wise	361
I danced in the morning (Lord of the dance)	353
O perfect love	547
Make me a channel of your peace	470
The King of love my Shepherd is	656
At the name of Jesus	147
Lead us heavenly Father, lead us	416
Now thank we all our God	497
The Lord's my shepherd	661

OFFERTORY HYMN SUGGESTIONS (IF YOU CHOOSE TO HAVE A NUPTIAL MASS)

All that I am	122
Praise to the Lord	583
Blest are you Lord	175
Lord, accept the gifts we offer	443
Take my hands	639
In bread we bring you Lord	362
Take our bread we ask you	641
Make me a channel of your peace	470
To your altar we bring	695
Take me Lord	638
Blest are you O God creator	177
My God accept my heart	479

COMMUNION HYMN SUGGESTIONS (IF YOU CHOOSE TO HAVE A NUPTIAL MASS)

This is my body	681
I am the bread of life	349
Eat this bread, drink this cup	865
Gifts of bread and wine	273
Alleluia, sing to Jesus	110
See us Lord about thine altar	606
O bread of heaven	500
Sweet sacrament divine	635
Here I am Lord (I the Lord of sea and sky)	376
Soul of my Saviour	628
Do not be afraid	240
I watch the sunrise	378

Morning has broken	476
Make me a channel of your peace	470
Be still and know I am with you	164
Be still for the presence of the Lord	165
Lead kindly light	415
Deep calls to deep	235
Unless a grain of wheat	697
Sweet Saviour bless us	636
Listen to my voice	437
Be still my soul	166

MUSIC SUGGESTIONS DURING THE SIGNING OF THE REGISTERS

Ave Maria	Bach/Gounod
Ave Maria	Schubert
Canon in D	Pachelbel
Prière à Notre Dame	Boëllmann
Jesu, joy of man's desiring	Bach
Air - from the Water Music	Handel
Air on the G string	Bach
Panis Angelicus	Franck

RECESSIONAL MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

The Wedding March	Mendelssohn
Trumpet Voluntary	Clarke
Te Deum Prelude	Charpentier
La Réjouissance - from the Royal Fireworks Music	Handel
Toccata (from Symphony no. 5 in F)	Widor
Hornpipe - from the Water Music	Handel



THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Once you have had time to look at the readings and music, please make an appointment with the priest or deacon. We do not provide booklets containing the Nuptial Mass and Marriage Service. Some couples like to produce a personalised copy. Please discuss this with the priest or deacon. Please do not print your order of service without having it checked over first.



ENTRANCE PROCESSION AND WEDDING MARCH

OPENING HYMN

GREETING

SPECIAL WELCOME TO ANYONE

OPENING PRAYER

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading (ends The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.)

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading (ends The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.)

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel (begins The Lord be with you. And with your Spirit.)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to N. Glory to you, O Lord.

(Ends The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.)

HOMILY

RITE OF MARRIAGE

BLESSING AND EXCHANGE OF RINGS

LIGHTING OF NUPTIAL CANDLE (optional)

BIDDING PRAYERS

[If you choose to have a Nuptial Mass:

OFFERTORY PROCESSION

OFFERTORY HYMN

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER]

NUPTIAL BLESSING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

[If you choose to have a Nuptial Mass: COMMUNION]

FINAL BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you. And with your Spirit.

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SIGNING OF CIVIL REGISTER

HYMN/MUSIC DURING SIGNING

WEDDING MARCH

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SETTING THE TIME OF THE WEDDING

You will be able to discuss this with the priest or deacon. You should work backwards from the time when you would like your guests to sit down for their meal. Allow time for them to gather from the church. Allow time for your photographs. A Nuptial Mass will last no longer than one hour. This includes signing the registers. A Marriage Service will last about fifteen minutes less.

RING(S)

There must be at least one ring. It is desirable that there be two, but it is entirely the choice of the couple.

WEDDING CANDLE

There is the possibility of lighting a wedding candle during the ceremony. This is an optional choice. Please discuss with the priest or deacon.

WEDDING REHEARSAL

This will be arranged for the week leading up to the wedding. It should take no longer than 20 minutes.





*and after a happy old age,
together with the circle of friends that surrounds them,*

DECORATING THE CHURCH

There are usually flowers in church, but if you wish to make special arrangements, please contact the parish office. If you wish to add ribbons to the benches you are asked to arrange for them to be taken away and maybe reused at the wedding reception.

THE DAY OF THE WEDDING

Try and spend a little time on your own, asking God to bless you and your day.

USHERS

You should arrange for two or more of your friends to act as ushers as they greatly help towards the smooth running of the church ceremony. They should be the first to arrive, about a half-hour before, in order to meet and greet people, hand out leaflets and hymn books and flower pins.

CHURCH SEATING

As you face towards the altar, it is traditional for the groom and his family to sit on the right and the bride and her family on the left. Friends of both should just sit behind the family on either side. Front row on the right side for the groom, best man and any page boys. Front row on the left side for bridesmaids. The mother of the bride should be seated in the second row, leaving a space for the person “giving the bride away”.

GROOM

The groom and best man should be at the church **TWENTY MINUTES** before the ceremony to check all the relevant details.

The best man should be responsible for the various fees and offerings which he should have prepared, in separate envelopes, appropriately labelled.

It is imperative that the groom and best man report to the Registrar as soon as they arrive at the church.

BRIDE

The bride should arrange to arrive at the church **TEN MINUTES** before the start of the ceremony, to allow time for photographs. The priest or deacon will greet you in the porch and remind you, and those attending you, of what to do.

USE OF CHURCH GROUNDS

You are welcome to make use of the grounds immediately around the church for photographs. Please make sure that your ushers remove empty flower boxes, wrapping etc. from the premises and the grounds.

CONFETTI

Please check with the parish priest if confetti or rice can be used within the grounds and please ensure that your guests are aware of this decision.

CHURCH CHECKLIST



- ☐ Made an initial appointment with the priest.
- ☐ Booked the church.
- ☐ Made an appointment with the registrar.
- ☐ Handed in all documents, baptismal certificate, letters of freedom, and permissions.
- ☐ Obtained the marriage certificate(s) from the Registrar's Office.
- ☐ Given the marriage preparation certificate to the parish office.
- ☐ Chosen the type of ceremony.
- ☐ Arranged readings and readers.
- ☐ Arranged hymns and music
- ☐ Arranged flowers for the church.
- ☐ Arranged altar servers *(if applicable)*.
- ☐ Chosen the ushers.
- ☐ Arranged the rehearsal.
- ☐ Let the parish priest know what is happening to any arrangements: pew ends etc.
- ☐ Made sure all fees and offerings have been set aside.
- ☐ Discussed access for any disabled guests.
- ☐ Arranged for the removal of any spare order of service leaflets, rubbish afterwards etc.

A close-up photograph of a wedding ring exchange. A person in a dark suit is placing a ring on the finger of a bride. The bride is wearing a white dress with intricate beading and a silver bracelet. The background is softly blurred.

*may they come to the Kingdom of Heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.*



There will be many details to see to concerning your wedding day but the months of preparation leading to it can also provide a good opportunity for you to make a fresh start and to strengthen your spiritual life.

You have decided to celebrate your wedding in church and that indicates your desire to make yours a Christian marriage.

If you have been a bit careless in the practice of your Christian faith, now could be the time to take stock and return to good habits. It is often a good idea to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (go to Confession) a few days before the wedding to make a new start and fresh beginning. Look at the Liverpool Archdiocesan website for places and times for confession.

You have our good wishes and prayers.



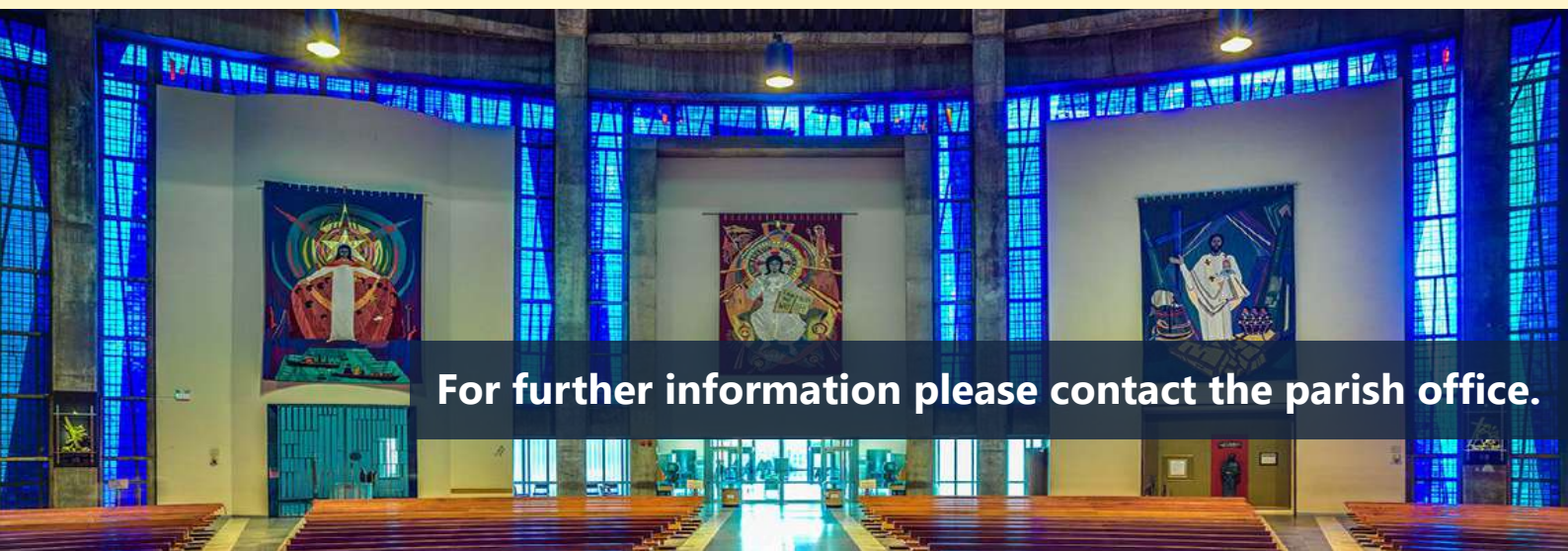


NUPTIAL BLESSING

Holy Father, maker of the whole world,
who created man and woman in your own image
and willed that their union be crowned with your blessing,
we humbly beseech you for these your servants,
who are joined today in the Sacrament of Matrimony.

May your abundant blessing, Lord,
come down upon this bride, N.,
and upon N., her companion for life,
and may the power of your Holy Spirit
set their hearts aflame from on high,
so that, living out together the gift of Matrimony,
they may (adorn their family with children
and) enrich the Church.

In happiness may they praise you, O Lord,
in sorrow may they seek you out;
may they have the joy of your presence
to assist them in their toil,
and know that you are near
to comfort them in their need;
let them pray to you in the holy assembly
and bear witness to you in the world,
and after a happy old age,
together with the circle of friends that surrounds them,
may they come to the Kingdom of Heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.



For further information please contact the parish office.