

Information for Couples Booking a Wedding in Ratoath

PLEASE READ THIS LETTER CAREFULLY!

Your local priest is available to you at every stage to help in the sacramental, spiritual and practical aspects of your wedding. The following points are offered for your information at this initial stage of booking your wedding.

No booking can be made over the telephone.

A phone call is considered as an enquiry until the booking is confirmed in writing.

On first contact with the parish office, you will receive a Wedding Booking Form. Upon return of the completed form, you will be issued with a Letter of Confirmation as regards the date, time and church for your wedding.

Please do not make any further plans until you receive the letter confirming your booking.

- Civil marriage is a radically different reality to Christian sacramental marriage. You will need to contact the office of the Registrar of Marriages in regard to the requirements of Irish civil law.
- The Pre-Nuptial Enquiry process for a church wedding should be completed no later than three months before the proposed wedding date, and preferably much sooner than that, to allow time to gather all the necessary certificates, and for the priest and couple to get to know each other. This is done for bride and groom in the parish in which they reside. Please contact the priest no later than three months before the wedding as he will need to meet bride and groom individually.
- Given the large number of weddings in this parish, couples from outside the parish should make arrangements with a priest of their own to perform the marriage ceremony.
- Bearing in mind that priests are transferred from parishes, and allowing for sickness and other unforeseen circumstances, the priest cannot give an absolute guarantee that he will be the celebrant of your wedding. However, his successor, or in the event of illness, a suitable replacement, will assume responsibility for your wedding.
- Please do not book a pre-marriage course without consulting the priest, as some courses are not recognised by the Church. ACCORD is the only agency approved by the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Meath.

- The music at the wedding Mass should all be sacred music, suited to the liturgy and drawn from the Church's extensive repertoire of sacred music, ancient and modern. No secular lyrics are permitted during the wedding Mass, just as hymns would not be appropriate at the wedding reception! This should be discussed with the priest and choir/soloist/musician in plenty of time before the wedding.
 - There is no need for a lengthy wedding booklet, unless you would like to have one. The choice is yours. A single fold-over sheet will suffice. You are free to choose your own Readings from Scripture, one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. You will need to discuss all the prayers and other texts with the priest before finalising the booklet. Downloading or copying other wedding booklets may just repeat the mistakes they so often contain!
 - Flowers enhance the beauty of the church and are enjoyed by those who come to Mass in the following days. For this reason, the flowers placed in the sanctuary area around the altar may not be removed from the church after the ceremony. Pedestals and other arrangements may be put in suitable places; not however on the altar or in front of it, due to limited space. These flowers may be removed after the ceremony. Please ask your florist not to attach flowers to pew-ends with drawing-pins, sticky tape or florist's gum, as this damages the timber when removed.
 - In view of various regulations under which parishes operate today, it is best to discuss any proposed photography or video arrangements with the priest. Be mindful also of the sensitivity some people have to flash photography.
 - Please arrange in good time with the priest the date and time of the rehearsal, which should take place a few days before the wedding.
 - On the day of the wedding itself, an atmosphere of reverence, recollection and prayer should be nurtured in the church to make it a truly joyful spiritual experience for the couple and all their guests, Catholic and non-Catholic alike.
-