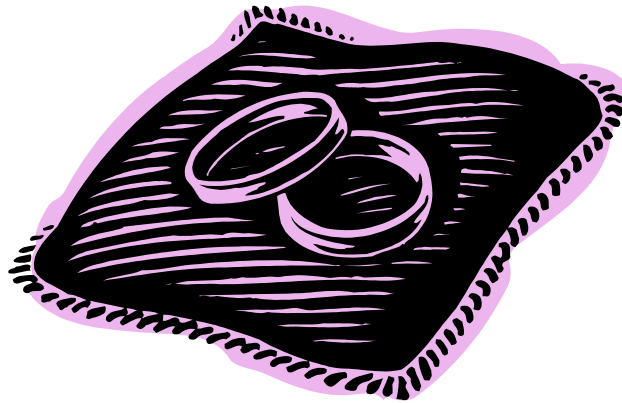
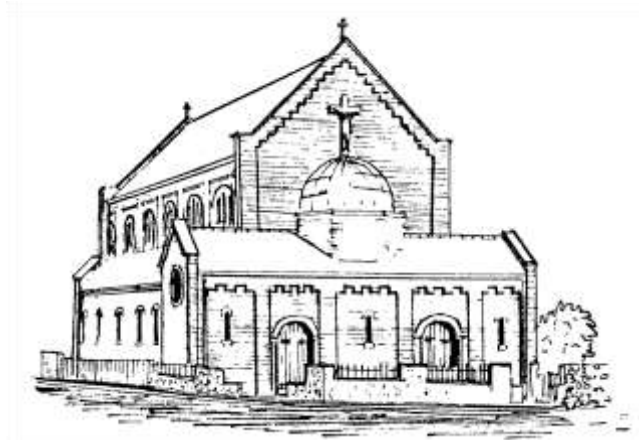


YOUR CATHOLIC WEDDING



APPLICATION NOTES

For couples where one or both Catholic partners live in the Catholic Parish of St Dyfrig's, Pontypridd.



St Dyfrig's Catholic Church,
Broadway, Treforest. CF37 1DB

01443 402 439 – st.dyfrigtreforest@rcadc.org

A Church in the Pontypridd Roman Catholic Deanery

Web: treforest.pontypriddRCdeanery.org.uk

A Parish in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cardiff: Registered Charity No. 242380.

YOUR CATHOLIC WEDDING

Congratulations on your decision to get married, and to seek God's blessing on your relationship. These notes will help you to understand the steps required to arrange a Catholic wedding as easily as possible.

IMPORTANT – to save wasted expense and disappointment, you are advised NOT to make any other practical arrangements for your wedding until:

- **The minister at St Dyfrig's has agreed that there are no obstacles in Church Law to your getting married.**
- **The minister at the venue of your wedding has agreed possible dates and times with you.**
- **You have given Civil Notice of your intention to get married and arranged for a Registrar to be present at the Church Wedding.**

PLEASE NOTE

There are certain CIVIL FORMALITIES and CHURCH REQUIREMENTS which must be fulfilled before your wedding can be authorized: see the following pages.

There is *no requirement* that a non-Catholic must become a Catholic in order to marry a Catholic. The Church regularly conducts marriages between Catholics and Christians of other traditions, and with people of no particular faith. The Catholic partner is asked to affirm, in the presence of the non-Catholic partner, that "I will do all that I can within the unity of our partnership to have all the children of our marriage baptized and brought up in the Catholic Church."

It *is* a requirement that a Catholic should be married in the presence of a Catholic minister, normally in a Catholic Church; special permission is needed to waive this requirement if there is a compelling reason for the wedding to take place in the other partner's church.

The Catholic Church does not recognize divorce, but in certain cases can set aside ("annul") an apparent marriage. *If you or your partner have been married before*, you should be aware that it may not be possible to be married in the Catholic Church. Please speak with a minister at the earliest possible opportunity to clarify your own situation.

An exception is made when a Catholic previously entered a civil marriage without the Church's blessing; this can be set aside with minimum paperwork because Catholics are required to obtain the Church's blessing in order to be married in the sight of God.

CIVIL FORMALITIES

Booking a Registrar

A Civil Registrar or Authorized Person *must* witness your wedding vows in order to issue a Civil Certificate of Marriage. In Wales and England, you must have a relevant connection with the church where you intend to marry – it is sufficient that one of you worships regularly in the church, or that one of you lives in the same registration district (in Wales, that will be your Unitary Authority area) as the church building. You *cannot* choose a church where you neither worship or live, and expect to be able to marry there. Further, in the UK it is *illegal* for a church to “simulate” a wedding by holding a church blessing following a civil ceremony elsewhere.

If you are getting married at St Dyfrig’s, once the minister has agreed provisional times and dates for the wedding, you must contact the [District Register Office Pontypridd](#) on **01443 486869** to arrange for one of their Registrars to be present during the wedding. They currently take provisional bookings up to two years ahead of the wedding. There may not be a registrar free at your preferred time and date – this is why the minister will offer you a *range* of time slots you can work within. **Once you have secured the registrar, please confirm the date and time to the parish office.** Telephone **01443 402439** or email: st.dyfrigtreforest@rcadc.org

If you are getting married at another UK venue, please check with that venue whether they provide their own “Authorised Person” to act as registrar for your wedding, or whether you have to book a “flying registrar” to come to be present from the local Registrar’s office. It is YOUR responsibility to contact the Registrar’s Office to make all the civil arrangements, and to book a “flying registrar” to come to be present. If there is no registrar present on the day, the wedding cannot go ahead.

If you are getting married outside the UK, you must make the appropriate civil arrangements.

- There is Government advice at <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/births-deaths-marriages-civil/marriage-and-civil-partnerships>.
- You may need a “Certificate of No Impediment” (sometimes called a *Nulla Osta*), for which see: <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/births-deaths-marriages-civil/marriage-and-civil-partnerships/CNI-nulla-ostas>.
- For certain countries (*e.g.* France) you are *required* to go through a civil wedding ceremony (which may be held in the UK) before you can make your wedding vows in a church.

Giving Formal Notice

Most Register Offices allow you to make a provisional booking for the wedding more than a year ahead. But in all cases, **not more than 12 months before the date of the wedding**, you and your partner must *each* give notice of marriage in your local Register Office (the place where you are *now living*), even if that is away from Pontypridd. **If either you or your partner are from overseas, special rules may apply – it is wise to make early enquiries.**

The Register Office will publish (on its noticeboard) your intent to marry – this is called the “banns”. *If you are getting married overseas, note that the Catholic Church does not publish its own separate banns – the civil permission is regarded as sufficient.*

To find your local registrar (in England and Wales) go to this web page:

<http://maps.direct.gov.uk/LDGRedirect/MapAction.do?ref=grolight>

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH'S REQUIREMENTS

Most of the formal preparation and paperwork for your marriage will be done by the Catholic priest or deacon of the place where you actually live. (If you are both Catholics and are living in separate parishes, you can choose a minister of either parish.) The process may be adjusted according to individual circumstances, but generally works like this:

Initial Meeting

The minister will meet with you together to fill in the application forms. This is a “getting to know you” meeting – particularly important if you do not worship regularly at the church.

Separate Meetings

The minister will arrange to meet separately with each of you (this can be done as “back-to-back” meetings on the same day or as totally separate appointments). This is a church requirement – the minister must give each partner an opportunity to speak privately about any doubts or concerns they have about getting married.

Marriage Preparation Course

The Church requires that all couples attend a short preparation course before getting married. The course may run on a Saturday, a Sunday, or as a series of four evenings. This is not a “religious” course, but mainly concerns the dynamics of married relationships. The Church takes marriage seriously and wants to offer you the best possible foundation for your married life together. Local courses are co-ordinated by Deacon Geoff Beach, e-mail deacon.geoff@googlemail.com or tel. 029 2086 1850. More information at: www.pontypriddRCdeanery.org.uk/links/marriage.html

The “Go-Ahead”

At this stage the minister should be in a position to give the “go ahead” – that as long as you have answered all questions honestly, and any later paperwork bears out what you have said, you can confidently go ahead and arrange the wedding. The minister may ask to meet with you together, or may be able to do give the “go-ahead” at the end of the separate meeting with the second partner.

Proof of Freedom

Six months before the date of your wedding, you must obtain proof of freedom to marry. The minister will give you a separate form which explains how to do this.

Planning Meeting(s)

Once you have the “go-ahead”, you are free to meet with the minister who will actually perform your wedding and start planning the details of the service.

Fees: The Catholic Church does not charge any fees for the administration of weddings. Lack of funds must never be an obstacle to any person receiving a sacrament of the Church. Any gift given to the minister who processes your paperwork is entirely at your discretion.