

LORD Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for the love we share, and for bringing us together.

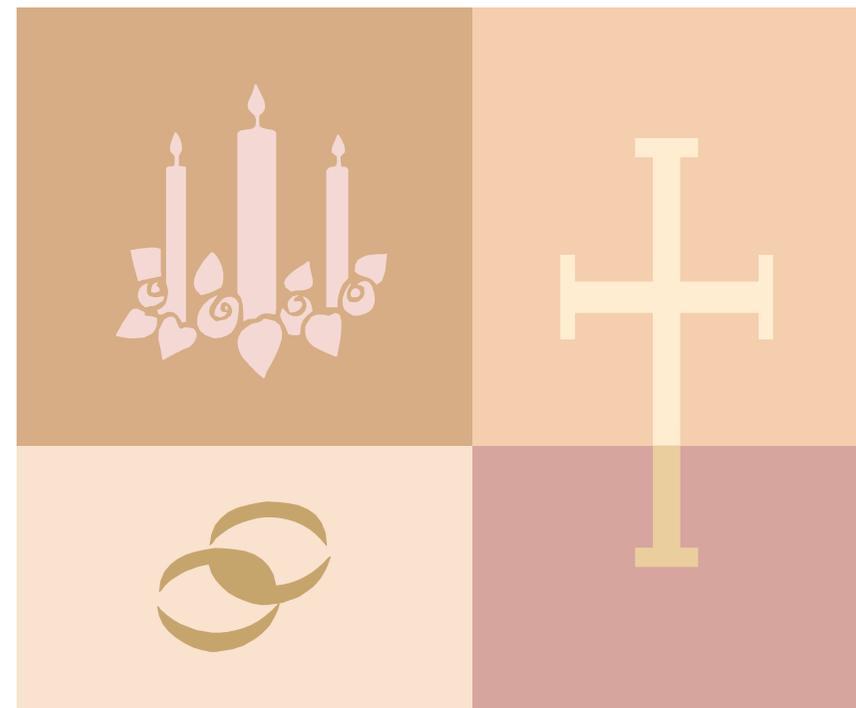
TEACH us to prepare for our wedding by an increase of love towards each other, by an increase of generosity to others and by the prayers we make for a long and happy life together.

BLESS all those who are helping us to prepare for our wedding.

Keep us good-humoured and joyful as the day draws near.

MARY our Mother and Saint Joseph keep us always in love with each other.

Teach us to live as you did and to love Christ with great devotion all the days of our life together.



Getting Married?

What To Do



Congratulations on your decision to get married. We, the priests of the parish, welcome you and wish you every blessing in your preparations and in your life together as a married couple. We hope your wedding will be a joyful occasion for you, your families and all who love you.

We will be happy to assist you in any way we can and to answer any queries. We offer you the following notes and checklist to help ensure all goes according to plan. Please read this leaflet carefully.

Freedom to Marry

Please confirm that both of you are free to marry in the Catholic Church. The best advice when one party has been married previously (*either in a civil or religious ceremony*) is not to make any arrangements until the freedom to marry has been clearly established by the diocesan offices.

Booking your Wedding

In the parish, bookings for the three churches are only taken by the Secretary in the Parish Office in Strandside South.

Email: abgparish@gmail.com

Phone: (058) 45787

Please book the church before you make any other arrangements regarding dates etc. *The booking form must be completed, signed and returned to the Parish Office before any booking will be confirmed. At least three months notice must be given.*

Please note that weddings *are not* celebrated on Sundays, Holy Week or other major feasts.

PARISH OF ABBEYSIDE, BALLINROAD AND GARRANBANE

CHECK LIST FOR YOUR WEDDING

- Have you booked the church and returned the booking form to the Parish office (three months notice)?
- Have you booked your Accord Pre Marriage Course? If completed, have you the Certificate?
- Have you contacted the Civil Register of Marriage regarding the civil requirements (three months notice)?
- Have you made an appointment with your local priest to complete your pre nuptial enquiry form? *This should be done at least 6 weeks prior to the wedding.*

For him to do this you will need:

- Baptismal Certificate from the church where you were baptised, dated within at least 6 months
- Confirmation Certificate
- Pre Marriage Course Certificate
- Letter of Freedom to marry (your priest will advise on whether this is necessary or not)

You can contact the sacristan in the church of the wedding regarding an appropriate time for arranging the flowers.

Photography

The Photo Album and video are lovely reminders of your wedding day. However, the photographer should be discreet because marriage is a liturgical celebration – a time of worship and prayer. A photographer moving around the sanctuary can be a distraction. Please ask your photographer to contact the priest before the wedding to discuss the matter.

Offering for the upkeep of the Church:

A contribution of €250.00 is the norm in our parish for the upkeep of the church. **This contribution is payable when making a booking.**

Offering for the Sacristan

Traditionally couples give an offering to the officiating priest and the sacristan for preparing the church and being available on the day. **May we suggest that an offering to the sacristan be in the region of €50.00.**

Offering for the Priest:

The wedding offering is part of the priest's income. The amount of the offering to the priest is at your own discretion, but **may we suggest the offering be in the region of €250.00.** The priest who will celebrate the wedding ceremony will also help with the preparation, including the choice of prayers, vows, readings...etc.

All of the above offerings are suggestions and it is not our intention that money should restrict anyone from getting married in church. There are no official charges for church weddings.

Punctuality

Out of courtesy to those who have come in good time, please try to arrive at the church at the appropriate time.

The Church as a House of Prayer

Please share this information with family and guests. Behaviour in church should be relaxed but not casual or irreverent and noise levels should be kept to the minimum. *Mobile phones should be turned off.*

What is Christian Marriage?

Marriage is one of the seven sacraments of the church. For Christians, it is an ongoing act of faith - a vocation. It is a profound commitment that each party must choose freely, giving their full consent without any reservation. Marriage calls us to reflect God's love to the world in a particularly way. Married people in their exclusive and lifelong commitment to each other, witness to and draw strength from how Jesus Christ loves us.

The wedding vows that the couple exchange express what is at the heart of Christian marriage. The words '*for better or worse*' point to the truth that life together will have its challenges as well as its rewards. The grace of the sacrament inspires the couple to turn to the Lord not just on days of happiness but also in times of sorrow, to seek the strength needed to transform any situation with love and indeed forgiveness when needed.

It is of the greatest importance therefore to make spiritual preparation for the sacrament as well as all the other preparations and organising. It is important that you reflect on and consider what Christian marriage is and to prepare for it by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) before your marriage. This is a special time of grace in your lives and deserves your best efforts in all the preparations.

Parish Contacts

Fr. Ned Hassett, P.P., Telephone No. (058 42036)

Church Sacristans

St. Augustine's, Abbeyside

Eileen O'Donovan Contact No. (058) 44692

St. Laurence's, Ballinroad

Ann Crowther Contact No: (087)7606941

St. Vincent de Paul, Garranbane

Liam & Geraldine Carroll Contact No: (087)6742191/ (087) 2801701

Pre Marriage Course

All couples are required to attend a Pre Marriage Course. Bishop Lee has asked that you attend one organised by Accord – the Church's marriage service. These courses are designed to help the couple to grow in clarity about and appreciation of the nature of the commitment that is Christian marriage. The Accord Centre for Waterford is at St. John's Pastoral Centre in Waterford city - Tel. 353-51-878333. Early booking is essential. Remember that you may book in for these courses as soon as your engagement is announced, even if the date for your wedding ceremony hasn't been set yet.

Civil Requirements for Marriage

Anyone intending to marry must give at least three months notice to the Registrar of Marriages. The local office is located in St. Josephs Hospital, Dungarvan. You will need to make an appointment to see the Registrar and you will need the names of the officiating priest, best man and bridesmaid for this appointment. The couple has ultimate responsibility for all arrangements regarding the civil aspect of their marriage.

Marriage Papers with your local Priest



Standard paperwork – the pre nuptial enquiry form must be completed for every wedding, usually by your local priest. For this to be done, you will need a recently issued baptism certificate, a confirmation certificate and your pre marriage course certificate.

Key elements of the Liturgy

- The Liturgy of the Word – Readings
- The Consent of the Couple – vows
- Special Nuptial Blessing
- Reception of Holy Communion (if during Mass)



A copy of the choices of readings, vows and prayers etc is available from the parish office.

Planning the Ceremony

Catholic Marriage is celebrated as a liturgy of the church. Usually it takes place during Mass. However, the Marriage Rite can be celebrated outside Mass. This can be a more appropriate form of the ritual in the case of a 'mixed' marriage or because it can no longer be assumed that seeking a church wedding is an expression of Christian faith. You should discuss this with your priest during the preparation process.

Each couple is encouraged to put their own shape on the day. The priest has a responsibility to advise the couple in their choices regarding liturgy – readings, prayers, music and choice of vows. Please speak to the priest about this early in the process.

Music

As with any celebration, music at a wedding ceremony heightens the sense of festivity and joy. The hymns and music you choose

should blend with the Christian meaning of the ceremony and the Mass. Having the word 'love' in a song doesn't automatically make it suitable for a church wedding ceremony. Liturgical norms only allow sacred music and songs during the ceremony.

Flowers

One traditionally associates flowers with the setting of a wedding but they should be used in moderation and no artificial flowers should be used.