



Marrying in St Mary's Cathedral or St Andrew's, Ravelston

Congratulations on your forthcoming wedding! We are delighted that you are getting married, and we are happy to help you to prepare for this important event.

Marriage Preparation

If you live within the Parish boundaries (New Town, Comley Bank, Stockbridge, Dean Village, Ravelston, Coates, Haymarket, Roseburn and Craighleith), please contact the Parish Office six months prior to the date of your proposed wedding to let us know that you are getting married. One of the priests will work together with you to complete the relevant paperwork and marriage preparation. Please note that we can only make wedding arrangements directly with the couple, and not with other family members or wedding planners.

Pre-Nuptial Paperwork

As a part of the preparation process, the Church requires you to submit the following paperwork before the wedding:

- **Baptism Certificate(s):** Six months before the wedding, ask the parish in which you were baptised for a new baptismal certificate.* This **must** be current: that is, issued no earlier than six months before the wedding.
- **Confirmation Certificate(s):** If your confirmation is not noted on your baptism certificate, please provide either your original certificate or ask the parish in which you were confirmed for a new certificate.
- **Letter of Freedom:** Each party must ask a parent or a sibling to submit a signed testimony that you have not been previously married and are free to marry. The priest will provide you with a template for this letter.

* Only Catholics require a baptismal certificate issued within six months of the wedding- other Christian denominations require proof of baptism only.

When you have obtained all of these documents, please contact the Parish Office to arrange an appointment with one of the priests to complete the rest of the paperwork.

Marriage Preparation Course

The Cathedral Parish runs a marriage preparation course about four times a year. The course

covers the fundamentals of the Church's vision of marriage and family life and is held on a Saturday from 10.30am-3.30pm in the Parish Rooms in 63 York Place.

The Marriage Preparation Course run by the Cathedral costs £50 to cover the costs of speakers and materials. For dates of upcoming courses and to register, please contact the Parish Office.

Getting Married Outside the Parish

If you would like to get married in another church, please still contact the Parish Office for marriage preparation. One of the priests will work together with you to complete the preparation described above, and we will then send this directly to the place where you are getting married.

Please also note that you are responsible for the completion of all civil requirements in the place where you are getting married.

Weddings in St Mary's Cathedral and St Andrew's Church

Who Can Get Married in St Mary's Cathedral and in St Andrew's Church?

Anyone can be married in the Cathedral as long as both the bride and the groom are free to marry and at least one of the parties is a Catholic.

St Andrew's Church in Ravelston is available only for weddings of parishioners.

Times

Weddings in the Cathedral or St Andrew's may take place any day of the week, except Sundays, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day and Holy Week. Weddings take place at 2pm.

We have an active parish with a lot of activities, so please contact the Parish Office to ensure the availability of the church before booking a venue for the reception.

Costs

- **Church:** There is no charge to receive the Sacraments. However, for those who are not parishioners of the Cathedral, we ask that to offset the running costs of the Cathedral, borne by its parishioners, a donation of £200 is made before the wedding. If you are a UK tax payer, you may consider gift-aiding this donation.
- **Celebrant:** It is also customary to give a donation to the Priest or Deacon who celebrates the wedding. The amount given varies according to means.
- **Organist:** The Cathedral Organist charges £120 for a wedding. If you would like an organist for your wedding, please let the Parish Office know, and we will help you arrange that.

Flowers

If you would like the Cathedral florist team to arrange flowers for your wedding, please contact Valerie Ball, who leads the team, on 07747896038.

If you wish to use an external florist, please contact the Parish Office in order to arrange access to the church for the florist at a mutually convenient time.

Photo and Video

Photographers and videographers are welcome to the ceremony as long as they are discreet. If you wish to film or record the ceremony, you must inform the organist of this as this incurs an additional cost of £63.

Confetti

You may throw confetti outside of the church at the end of the ceremony.

Civil Requirements

Both parties to a proposed marriage are required to submit a Notice of Marriage form (Form M10) to the registrar of the district in which the marriage is to take place. Forms can be obtained from any Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages in Scotland. Notice must be

given in the three month period before the wedding, and not later than fifteen days before the wedding.

The Registrar will prepare a Marriage Schedule which one of the parties must collect in person. The Wedding Schedule **must** be brought to the celebrant before the wedding, usually at the wedding rehearsal. **N.B. Without the Marriage Schedule, we will not be able to celebrate your wedding.**

For full civil requirements be in contact with:

Registrar's Office
59-63 George IV Bridge,
Edinburgh,
EH1 1RN
Tel.: +44 131 529 2600
Email: registrars.lothianchambers@edinburgh.gov.uk

If You Do Not Live in the Parish

If you do not live within the boundaries of the parish, your local Parish Priest is responsible for the completion of your pre-marriage paperwork and the necessary pre-marriage catechesis. He is also responsible for ensuring that the relevant paperwork arrives at the Cathedral Parish Office in good time. **N.B. If we have not received the paperwork in time, we will have to cancel the wedding.**

Planning the Liturgy

Preparing the liturgy for the celebration of marriage is an exciting and important part of your marriage preparation. The Rite of Marriage is set, but the couple has the opportunity to choose between the different options for readings and sacred music.

Nuptial Mass or Wedding Service?

When two Catholics marry, the Sacrament of Matrimony normally takes place within Mass. This is fitting because the Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith and clearly expresses that God is the source of all love.

A Nuptial Mass is in many ways like a Sunday Mass, but with the addition of the rite of marriage, the heart of which is found in two key moments: the Consent exchanged by the bride and groom, and the Nuptial Blessing that is given to the newly married couple. The consent is “the indispensable element that ‘makes the marriage’” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1626), when the bride and groom are the ministers of the sacrament to each other and the celebrant receives their consent in the name of the Church. The beautiful Nuptial Blessing includes an invocation of the Holy Spirit, who is the “seal” of the new spouses’ covenant and “the ever-available source of their love and the strength to renew their fidelity” (no. 1624).

In addition to the Consent and the Nuptial Blessing, the Order of Celebrating Matrimony contains two other important elements. Before exchanging vows, the bride and groom are asked a series of questions, called the Questions before the Consent, to determine that each approaches marriage freely, intends a lifelong union, and is open to children and to raising them according to the law of Christ and his Church. Then, after the exchange of vows, there is a Blessing and Giving of Rings. The spouses will wear the blessed rings as a sign of their covenant with each other and with God.

A Catholic wedding may also take place outside of Mass, for example when a Catholic marries a non-Catholic or when a significant number of wedding guests are not Catholic. The main difference from a Nuptial Mass is that there is no Liturgy of the Eucharist, but the other elements remains the same.

Readings

Readings at Catholic weddings are taken from the Bible: a first reading (usually taken from the Old Testament), a Responsorial Psalm, an optional second reading (taken from the New Testament) and a Gospel. The Celebrant will give you the different options for readings.

The readings may be read by family and friends of the couple. The person who reads the first reading generally reads the psalm as well, unless this is sung. The person who reads the second reading also reads the Gospel Acclamation, unless this is sung.

Music

There are many opportunities for sacred and classical music within the wedding ceremony; for the entrance of the bride, opening and recessional hymns, during the signing of the register and during Nuptial Masses, at the offertory and time for Holy Communion.

Please note that our churches do not have a PLL License, and that we therefore cannot play any recorded music.

Marriage Preparation Checklist

Couple resident in Cathedral parish and marrying in the Cathedral or St Andrew's

To be completed in St Mary's Cathedral Parish:

- Made enquiry six months before the wedding
- Made contact with the Parish Office to arrange an organist
- Made contact with Cathedral florist (if desired)
- Inscribed on marriage preparation course (Date: _____)
- Obtained baptism certificate(s)
- Obtained confirmation certificate(s)
- Obtained letters of freedom
- Completed marriage preparation course
- Met with priest to complete paperwork
- Made contact with the celebrant to discuss readings and book rehearsal date and time (Date: _____)
- Registered the wedding in the local district
- Obtained Marriage Schedule

Marriage Preparation Checklist
Couple resident in Cathedral parish marrying in another parish

To be completed in St Mary's Cathedral parish:

- Made enquiry six months before the wedding
- Inscribed on marriage preparation course (Date: _____)
- Obtained baptism certificate(s)
- Obtained confirmation certificate(s)
- Obtained letters of freedom
- Completed marriage preparation course
- Met with priest to complete paperwork

To be completed in parish in which wedding will take place:

- Made enquiry six months before the wedding
- Made enquiries regarding local preparation of the ceremony (readings, music, rehearsal etc.)
- Registered the wedding in the local district
- Obtained Marriage Schedule

Marriage Preparation Checklist
Couple resident in another parish marrying in Cathedral parish

To be completed in parish in which couple is resident:

- Made enquiry six months before the wedding
- Inscribed on marriage preparation course (Date: _____)
- Obtained baptism certificate(s)
- Obtained confirmation certificate(s)
- Obtained letters of freedom
- Completed marriage preparation course
- Met with priest to complete paperwork

To be completed in St Mary's Cathedral parish:

- Made enquiry six months before the wedding
- Made contact with the Parish Office to arrange an organist
- Made contact with Cathedral florist (if desired)
- Made contact with the celebrant to discuss readings and book rehearsal date and time (Date: _____)
- Made payment to Cathedral for use of the Church
- Registered the wedding in the local district
- Obtained Marriage Schedule