

For current Covid-19 restrictions on the celebration of weddings please follow this link.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-small-marriages-and-civil-partnerships>

Getting Married in Church

Congratulations on your engagement and thank you for choosing to celebrate the sacrament of Marriage in our church. It will be a privilege for us to share this important moment with you.

Here are some answers to questions we are often asked.

To get married in a Catholic Church one of you must be a baptised member of the Church and resident in the parish. If you don't live in the parish we will need a letter from the Parish Priest where you live.

We require at least six months notice for a wedding to take place in the parish although under special circumstances we can apply for permission to shorten this time.

The Sacrament of marriage is a life-long commitment, blessed by God. If one of you has been previously married to someone else it might not be possible for you to celebrate your marriage in church. Please talk to Fr Mark about this. Sometimes people think they can't get married in a Catholic church but we might still be able to make that happen.

All couples hoping to marry in church must attend a marriage preparation course. This normally takes place on a Saturday or over two evenings. Currently this is taking place on-line while Covid-19 restrictions are in place.

People often think that getting married will be very expensive. It doesn't need to be. Here is an idea of what it costs to get married in church. Charges normally go up a bit each year.

- You will need permission from the Registry office to marry in church. There is a fee for this.
- You will need to pay the Registrar's fee on the day of the wedding which is about £90.
- Attending the marriage preparation course costs £50 per couple, and this normally includes lunch and printed materials that you will keep.
- If you would like an organist to play at your wedding this costs around £80.
- **There is no fee for the church** but we suggest donation of £200 to cover our costs of preparing the church, administration and a ministers fee.

We are here to help! If you have any questions or would like to request a date to get married please telephone Fr Mark on 01257 460154. It's much easier to have a chat on the phone than to swap e-mails back and forth. Thank you.