

# The Sacrament of Marriage



St. Mary's Church, Enniskerry



St. Mochonog's Church, Kilmacanogue



St. Patrick's Church, Curtlestown



St. Kevin's Church, Glencree

## Welcome!

Congratulations on your decision to take one of the most important steps in your lives by getting married. We wish you every blessing in your future as husband and wife.

We are delighted that you have chosen to get married in our parish, The Immaculate Heart of Mary. We will make every effort to facilitate your celebration and to make your wedding day a very happy, holy and memorable one.

## Preparing for marriage

The purpose of this booklet is to explain some of the key procedural and spiritual matters that you will need to consider when preparing for your wedding.

We understand that you will be busy in the run up to your wedding day. However, do try not to allow all the material details to dominate your preparations. We hope that you will use the time before your marriage to deepen your love, to grow spiritually and to appreciate the sacrament you will be giving to each other. It is also a valuable opportunity to reflect on your relationship with each other and with God.

## Reserving a church for your wedding

We have four churches in our parish: Curtlestown, Enniskerry, Glencree and Kilmacanogue. Given their beautiful settings, they are all popular choices for religious celebrations and often get booked over a year in advance. Therefore, in order to secure the date you would like for your wedding we encourage you to confirm your reservation at the earliest opportunity.

In order to support the ongoing maintenance of our churches and grounds and to cover the costs of insurance, lighting, heating, etc during your wedding (and rehearsal if you have one) the parish currently charges €500 to host weddings for couples who reside outside our parish. No reservations will be finalised until a completed application form (included at the back of this booklet) and payment are received and we have confirmed your reservation to you.

You can reserve one of our churches for your wedding on any day except Sunday, Holy Days, Bank Holidays or during Holy Week (the week concluding on Easter Sunday).

You are very welcome to come and look at our churches before choosing which one suits your needs. The following information may assist you:

	<u>Opening hours</u>	<u>Seating capacity</u>
St. Patrick's (Curtlestown)	9.30am-11.00am (Sunday only)	110
St. Mary's (Enniskerry)	9.00am-6.00pm (or earlier in Winter)	250
St. Kevin's (Glencree)	9.00am-6.00pm (or earlier in Winter)	120
St. Mochonog's (Kilmacanogue)	9.00am-6.00pm (or earlier in Winter)	200

All four churches are also open for Sunday masses - see [www.enniskerryparish.ie](http://www.enniskerryparish.ie) for mass times. Ample parking is available for you and your guests at all of the churches.

### Church documentation

The following documentation must be received by our Parish Office in preparation for your wedding. Please be aware that if you are not from The Immaculate Heart of Mary parish you will need to contact the priest in the parish where you live at least six months before your wedding in order to obtain his assistance in preparing some of this documentation.

<i>Document</i>	<i>Due date</i>
1. A Pre-nuptial enquiry form must be completed for each of you with your local priest <i>i.e.</i> the priest of the parish where you have been living for the past 6 months.	6 months before the wedding
2. A Baptismal Certificate for each of you issued and dated <u>within</u> 6 months of your wedding.	4 months before the wedding
3. A Confirmation Certificate for each of you <u>within</u> 6 months of your wedding.	4 months before the wedding
4. Letters of Freedom for each of you. This is a letter signed by your parents confirming that you have not entered into any form of Marriage before.	6 months before the wedding
5. Marriage Registration Form (MRF). This form will be issued to you by the Registrar of Marriages (see "Civil registration" below) when you have fulfilled their requirements.	On the day of your wedding

### Civil registration

All couples must make an appointment to meet with the Registrar of Marriages ([www.groireland.ie](http://www.groireland.ie)) before the wedding. While the law requires that you provide the Registrar with at least 3 months notice, we strongly recommend that you complete this process at least 6 months before you are due to be married. You will be required to bring a variety of documents when meeting the Registrar of Marriages so please study the requirements on their website carefully. When you have met all the civil registration requirements the Registrar of Marriages will issue you with a Marriage Registration Form (MRF). You should review the MRF with the priest who has agreed to marry you to ensure that all the details are correct. You must then bring the MRF to the church on the day of your wedding as your marriage cannot proceed without it. At the end of your wedding ceremony the MRF will be signed by both of you, the Best Man and the Bridesmaid, either in the sacristy or at a table near the Altar depending on your preference.

### Marriage Preparation Programme ("Pre-marriage Course")

The Parish and Diocese has a requirement for you to take part in a marriage preparation course which will give you an opportunity to explore your relationship together before your marriage and assist you in focussing on the issues and responsibilities of married life.

These courses are run by Accord and you will find full details on their website [www.accord.ie](http://www.accord.ie). Please be aware that these courses book out early so we strongly encourage you to book and complete your marriage preparation course as soon as you have booked the church.

A useful website for planning your ceremony is [www.gettingmarried.ie](http://www.gettingmarried.ie). Amongst other things, it includes a very useful facility to enable you to create your own Wedding Booklet. We also recommend an excellent book called "A Wedding of Your Own" by Father Padraig McCarthy published by Veritas and available on [www.veritasbooksonline.ie](http://www.veritasbooksonline.ie) and from good bookshops.

### Papal blessing (optional)

Some people like to obtain the Holy Father's blessing on the occasion of their marriage. Having obtained a note from the priest who is going to marry you, you can apply for the Papal Blessing through Veritas (tel: 01 878 8177). This needs to be done at least 10 weeks before your wedding.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

As part of your preparation for marriage, we would earnestly recommend you to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the days preceding your wedding. This is a wonderful way to complete your new beginning. Your wedding day is a day to be truly at peace with God and with each other. We know that any priest will be very glad to help you in regards to Confession and if we can help please do not hesitate to contact us. In our Parish there are Confessions every Saturday after the 10.15am morning Mass (Enniskerry).

### Your priest

The priest who will marry you will play a key role in your preparation for marriage and in your wedding ceremony. If you are living in parish of The Immaculate Heart of Mary and you are supporting the parish through the Family Offering collection then a priest of the parish will be available to marry you if you would like them to do so. Regrettably, due to the very high demand, if you are not a parishioner of the Immaculate Heart of Mary we are unable to provide a priest for your wedding and you will need to arrange for your own priest to marry you.

If you are arranging your own priest, please be conscious of the fact that your priest will dedicate a significant amount of their time and energy to your wedding. In recognition of your gratitude for his guidance and advice and his time spent meeting you, preparing your marriage papers, travelling to the rehearsal and the wedding, etc it is usual for the groomsmen to give the priest an offering on the day of your wedding, usually in the range of €200 to €300.

### Wedding ceremony

When two Catholics are getting married it is usual for the marriage to take place within a Mass. When it is an inter-faith marriage or a marriage to a non baptised person it is customary not to have a Mass.

One or two scripture readings will be read by some of your relatives or friends. Try to ask readers who are confident about reading in public so that it will not be too great an ordeal for them. If you have a wedding rehearsal, it is a good idea to invite your readers as they can familiarise themselves with microphones, etc. You may also ask friends or relatives to read petitions in the Prayers of the Faithful.

Parents or friends may also bring forward the Bread and Wine in the Procession of the Gifts. After the exchange of rings the Bridegroom has traditionally given the Bride a coin symbolising the sharing of possessions. If you wish, any small items of silver or gold may be exchanged at this stage. These could be objects of special significance for both of you.

The Bridal party may receive Holy Communion in the form of Bread and Wine if they would like to do so. Please let us know in advance of your wedding day. Also please let us (or your priest) know if either of the wedding couple will not be receiving Holy Communion.

#### **A few house rules**

We want your wedding to be as happy and holy an occasion as possible and we will do everything we can to ensure that this is the case. However, in order to help us do so, we have just a few “house rules” in relation to which we greatly appreciate your understanding.

#### *Confetti / Sacristan*

A lot of work is put into keeping the church clean and tidy and preparing it for your wedding. This is done by a team of volunteers and, in particular, the Sacristan. As it is very difficult to clean up, we have to ask you to let your guests know that throwing confetti, rice or rose petals in the Church Grounds or in the Church is not permitted.

It is customary to make a small offering to the sacristan (usually c. €50) who does not get paid for the time spent preparing for and attending your wedding mass.

#### *Church furnishings & candles*

It is not permitted to alter the arrangement of sacred and other furnishings in our Churches, such as seats or lecterns. Also the use of candles, lanterns and other naked flamed instruments cannot be facilitated outside the Sanctuary area.

#### *Photography*

Photographers may use the Sanctuary but are expected to act with respectful discretion, in keeping with the sacredness of the occasion. Each photographer should discuss his expectations with the Celebrant beforehand. Posing or “repeats” during the ceremony are deemed to be inappropriate.

#### *Flowers*

Please contact our Church Florist Mabel on 086 8667994 (even if you do not intend to use her) at least 3 months before your wedding and she will advise either yourself or your florist on what we allow in our Churches. If there are other weddings within a day or two of yours, it is often possible to share the expenses and our Florist will help you with this.

Only Free Standing flowers are allowed. Bouquets attached to seats should be removed immediately after the ceremony. Only tie-bows may be used on seats and no sticking tape or adhesive material is permitted.

No Naked flames are allowed in any of our Churches, this included all tea lights, and absolutely none on the back altar, this Altar is an antique and therefore very valuable.

None on the Radiators, pew ends or on the floor, only battery operated candles are allowed.

Flowers in the Sanctuary area of the Church are considered to be donations to the Church and should always be left on the Altar after the ceremony.

#### **Ushers**

There is an important role for your ushers immediately before and after your wedding ceremony. It is important that they arrive at the church and make themselves known to the Sacristan at least 30 minutes before your wedding is due to start, and they will be required by the Sacristan for no more than 5 minutes after the ceremony.

#### **Contact information**

Our team of parish staff, clergy and volunteers all have a role to play in preparing for your wedding ceremony so please feel free to contact them whenever necessary.

#### **Contact Names & Numbers:**

**Parish Offices** (open 10am -1pm Monday to Friday)

**Enniskerry, Curtlestown & Glencree** Secretary Margaret Blackbyrne

Telephone : (+353 1) 276 0030

Email: [stmarysparishoffice@eircom.net](mailto:stmarysparishoffice@eircom.net)

You will find lots of useful information available on the parish's website

Website: [www.enniskerryparish.ie](http://www.enniskerryparish.ie)

By post: Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish

Parish Office, Church Road

Enniskerry, Bray

Co. Wicklow

**Kilmacanogue**

Secretary: Joyce Townsend

Email: [stmochonogs@eircom.net](mailto:stmochonogs@eircom.net)

Telephone: (+353 1) 2021882

You will find lots of useful information available on the parish's website

Website: [www.enniskerryparish.ie](http://www.enniskerryparish.ie)

By Post: St. Mochoonog's Parish Office

Kilmacanogue, Bray

Co. Wicklow

#### **Flowers**

Curtlestown, Enniskerry & Glencree

086-8667994 (Mabel Coogan)

Kilmacanogue

01 2021882 (Joyce Townsend)

#### **Sacristans**

Curtlestown

01 2829745 (Norah Burton)

Enniskerry

01 2866131 (Teresa Dannel)

Glencree

01 2861956 (Aidan Maher)

Kilmacanogue

01 2021882 (Breda —via Parish Office)

#### **Services**

Organist

086 0670230(Charles Pearson)

Guitarist/Soloist

086 1587427 (Nicole Brown)