



South Edinburgh Cluster

The faith communities of St John Vianney's, St Gregory's and St Catherine's

Marrying in the Parishes of South Edinburgh Cluster

This booklet has been written to provide you with the information you need for your forthcoming wedding.

The parish priest will work together with you to complete the relevant paperwork and guide you in your marriage preparation.

Pre-Nuptial Paperwork

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

(For Catholic Parties)

- 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. *Please note that only Catholics require a baptismal certificate issued within six months of the wedding - other Christian denominations require proof of baptism only.*
- 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. There is a template for this letter at the end of this booklet.

Please note that if either of you live outside the parishes in the cluster, you must obtain a letter from the Parish Priest in the parish in which you are domiciled, giving permission to marry outside parish of domicile.

When you have obtained all these documents, please contact the Cluster Office (southedclust@btinternet.com) to arrange an appointment with the priest to complete the rest of the paperwork.

Marriage Preparation Course

The Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh runs a marriage preparation course about four or five times a year. This course is **mandatory for all couples**. The course covers the fundamentals of the Church's vision of marriage and family life. For dates of upcoming courses and to register please visit

<https://archedinburgh.org/administration/marriage-preparation-courses/>

Getting Married Outside the Parish

If you are getting married in another church (i.e. not in St Catherine's, St Gregory's or St John Vianney's), please still contact the Cluster Office. The parish priest will work together with you to complete the preparation described above, identifying if you need dispensations from the Archdiocesan office. Once granted then they will send this directly to the place where you are getting married, this is done in conjunction with the parish paperwork.

Civil Requirements

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

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 priest before the wedding, usually at the wedding rehearsal.

Please note that without the Marriage Schedule, we will not be able to celebrate your wedding.

For full civil requirements contact:

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 Our Parishes but are being married in one of our three parishes

If you do not live within the boundaries of one of our parishes (St Catherine's, St Gregory's, St John Vianney's), the Parish Priest in the parish in which you live is responsible for the completion of your pre-marriage paperwork. He is also responsible for ensuring that the relevant paperwork arrives at the Cluster Office in good time. **It is important to note that, 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 can choose between the different options for readings and 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'", 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".

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 remain 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 Priest 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 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.

Note however, that only hymns and sacred music should be selected and no popular music.

We are not able to supply an organist or musician for your wedding and this is something you will need to arrange yourself.

Other Considerations

Flowers

If you wish to have flowers at your wedding access is either on the day of the wedding or by arrangement.

Photographers/videographers

If you would like to have a photographer and/or videographer, please meet with the parish priest to discuss this.

Please note that we do not have facilities to livestream.

Fees

While there is no charge to receive the sacraments, we suggest a donation of £100 is made before the wedding.

Checklists

On the following pages you will find three marriage preparation checklists.

- The first is to be used if you are resident in one of the three parishes of the South Edinburgh Cluster and marrying in one of those parishes.
- The second is for couples who are resident in one of our three parishes but marrying in another parish.
- The third is for couples who are resident in another parish but marrying in one of the three cluster parishes.

While a copy of the appropriate checklist will be kept in the Cluster Office, you might find it helpful to use as you prepare for your wedding.

Marriage Preparation Checklist

Couple resident in South Edinburgh Cluster parishes and marrying in the South
Edinburgh Cluster parishes

- ☐ Made enquiry six months before the wedding
- ☐ Booked 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
- ☐ Contacted the priest 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 South Edinburgh Parishes marrying in another parish

These are the things you will do in the cluster parishes:

- ☐ Made enquiry six months before the wedding
- ☐ Booked on marriage preparation course (Date: _____)
- ☐ Obtained baptism certificate(s)
- ☐ Obtained confirmation certificate(s)
- ☐ Obtained letters of freedom
- ☐ Acquired appropriate dispensations from Archdiocesan Office
- ☐ Completed marriage preparation course
- ☐ Met with priest to complete paperwork
- ☐ Obtained a letter from the Parish Priest, giving permission to marry outside parish of domicile

These are the things you will do in the parish in which the 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 Cluster parish

These are the things you will do in parish in which you are resident:

- ☐ Made enquiry six months before the wedding
- ☐ Booked on marriage preparation course (Date: _____)
- ☐ Obtained baptism certificate(s)
- ☐ Obtained confirmation certificate(s)
- ☐ Obtained letters of freedom
- ☐ Received a letter from the parish priest for them to marry outside their parish of domicile
- ☐ Completed marriage preparation course
- ☐ Met with priest to complete paperwork

These are the things you will do in the cluster parishes:

- ☐ Made enquiry six months before the wedding
- ☐ Made contact with the priest to discuss readings and book rehearsal date and time (Date: _____)
- ☐ Received all documentation with regards the wedding
- ☐ Registered the wedding in the local district
- ☐ Obtained Marriage Schedule