



# Ennis Parish



*Wedding Ceremony  
Guidelines*

## For Marriage

As spring unfold the dream of the earth,  
May you bring each other's hearts to birth.

As the ocean finds calm in the view of land  
May you love the gaze of each other's mind.

As the wind arises free and wild,  
May nothing negative control your lives.

As kindly as the moonlight might search the dark,  
So gentle may you be when light grows scarce.

As surprised as the silence that music opens,  
May your words for each other be touched with reverence.

As warmly as the air draws in the light,  
May you welcome each other's every gift.

As elegant as dreams absorbing the night,  
May sleep find you clear of anger and hurt.

And as twilight harvests the day's colours,  
May love bring you home to each other.



*John O'Donohue*

## The Cloths Of Heaven

Had I the heavens' embroidered cloths,  
Enwrought with golden and silver light,  
The blue and the dim and the dark cloths  
Of night and light and the half-light,  
I would spread the cloths under your feet:  
But I, being poor, have only my dreams;  
I have spread my dreams under your feet;  
Tread softly because you tread on my dreams.

W. B. Yeats



## Scaffolding

Masons when they start upon a building  
Are careful to test out the scaffolding;

Make sure that planks wont slip at busy points,  
Secure all ladders, tighten bolted joints.

And yet all this comes down when the jobs done,  
Showing off walls of sure and solid stone.

So if, my dear, there sometimes seems to be  
Old bridges breaking between you and me,

Never fear. We may let the scaffold fall,  
Confident that we have built our wall.

Seamus Heaney.

## Introduction:

The priests of the parish congratulate you on your decision to celebrate your wedding in Ennis Parish. We hope your wedding day will be happy and relaxed. To assist you in organising the necessary marriage papers and to plan your wedding liturgy, the following guidelines might be useful.

## Booking the Church

*At least one party must be Baptised into the Roman Catholic Church.*

To reserve the Church for your wedding it is necessary to make a booking with **one of the Priests in the Parish**, or through the **Parish Office at 065 6824043**.

Bookings are on first come basis. A special booking form must be completed.

**The fee for use of the Cathedral and St. Joseph's by non parishioners is €200.00.** This can be paid through the Parish office.

## Meeting with Priest:

It is important to make an appointment with your priest and he will be happy to go through this document with you and answer any queries you may have.

## State Requirements

Make an appointment to meet with the Civil Registrar in advance of your proposed date of marriage. You must give at least three months notice of your intention to marry

In preparation for the meeting with the Registrar, book your church and know the name of the priest who has agreed to celebrate your marriage. (He is known in civil law as the Solemniser).

Make sure the priest who has agreed to marry you is on the "List of Solemnisers". If he is not on the list ask your local priest about having him nominated as a Temporary Solemniser for your marriage.

**You will need the following documentation:**

- ⇒ Photo identity (passport or driving licence)
- ⇒ Names and date of births of witnesses.
- ⇒ Name of the church where you wish to marry.
- ⇒ Date of marriage.
- ⇒ Name of priest who will officiate at your marriage
- ⇒ If you have been previously married you must provide the Civil Registrar with an original divorce decree, or death certificate if widowed.

Having registered your intention to marry, both parties including the church here in Ennis will receive an acknowledgement from the Registrar. You will receive a *green folder* containing your marriage Registration Form (MRF) which you must bring to the Church on your wedding day.

This completes your civil obligations until the day of the wedding, when you sign the marriage licence.

**Annulment & Divorce**

If you have been married before and have either a civil or church annulment from a previous marriage or a civil divorce in Ireland or abroad you must inform the priest and the civil register. It will be necessary to establish your freedom to marry before a booking can be made.

**Documents / Wedding Papers Required:**

The Church Community believes in the importance of helping couples prepare for this life long commitment and so requires that they give at least three months notice to the Church.

**You will need**

- ⇒ a recent baptismal Certificate for each party from the Church where you were baptised.
- ⇒ Confirmation Certificate from the Church where you were confirmed.
- ⇒ Letters of Freedom.
- ⇒ Certificate of attendance at a pre marriage course

**Useful phone / contact numbers****Ennis Cathedral**

Tel: 065 6824043.

Email: [info@ennisparish.com](mailto:info@ennisparish.com)

Web address: <http://www.ennisparish.com>

**St. Joseph's Church.**

Tel.: 065 6822166

(Fr. John Mc Govern)

**Christ the King, Cloughleigh**

Tel: 065 6840715

(Fr. Tom O'Gorman)

**Accord:**

Tel: 065 6824297

1850 58 5000

Email: [accord.ennis@eircom.net](mailto:accord.ennis@eircom.net)

**Civil Registration Office,**

Sandfield Centre,

Ennis.

Tel.: 065 6868050

[www.groireland.ie](http://www.groireland.ie)

## Flowers



Flowers are usually part of the wedding day celebration.

It is essential that you contact Josepha of the **Cathedral Altar Society** Tel; 6823795; and Carmel for **St. Josephs**: Tel; 6821511, about flower arrangements. Please do this well in advance. They coordinate all the decorations for the Cathedral and St. Josephs and will be able to advise you.

Traditionally brides would leave some of the floral decoration in the church after the ceremony. This is greatly appreciated and admired by people and we thank you for your kindness.

If there is more than one wedding on a given day/weekend, please consider sharing and Josepha / Carmel would be willing to assist you in every way.

Sacred Space, incorporating plants and symbols to mark various season and feasts, are features of our churches. Sensitivity to their presence is asked for when considering / planning your Ceremony.

## Photographs

It would be appreciated, when making arrangements for photographs of your wedding in the church, to inform your photographer to be as discreet as possible during the Marriage and Mass.

## Parish Protocol

- ✓ Please try to arrive in time as a matter of courtesy, there may be other weddings on the same day.
- ✓ Children should be supervised at all times during the wedding ceremony.
- ✓ Confetti and rice **is prohibited** in the Church grounds. We would appreciate it if you would adhere to this.
- ✓ Remember that you and your guests are in a house of worship and must act accordingly.

## Inter Faith Marriages

If your marriage is an Interfaith marriage (one of you is not a Catholic) a special permission/dispensation is needed for marriage. Your priest will apply for these. *Some examples are*

### *Marrying a baptised person who is a non catholic.*

The non catholic will need a copy of his/her baptismal certificate which should be obtained from the Pastor/Rector of their church of Baptism.

### *Marrying a person who is not baptised*

### *Marriages witnessed by someone other than a Catholic priest.*

If the marriage is to take place other than in the Catholic Church, the Catholic must seek a dispensation to marry in a church other than a Catholic church.

## Pre Marriage Preparation Courses

Evidence is needed to show that you have participated in some form of preparation programme. Pre marriage courses should be booked 6 to 12 months before marriage. Courses run by **Accord and Engage Encounter** are the recommended courses for couples getting married in the Killaloe Diocese.

**Accord Tel: 065 6824297 /1850 58 5000**

**email: [accord.ennis@eircom.net](mailto:accord.ennis@eircom.net)**

**Website: [www.accord.ie](http://www.accord.ie)**

**Engaged Encounter Tel: 091 844549**

**Email: [eskerret@indigo.ie](mailto:eskerret@indigo.ie)**



## Pre Nuptial Inquiry Form:

When you have all the above documents, arrange to meet with your local priest who will fill out the Pre Nuptial enquiry forms with you. This is the form which asks a number of questions to make sure that you understand the step you are about to take. When the documents have been completed they are sent to the church where the wedding is to take place.

## Papal Blessing.

If you wish to apply for a Papal Blessing, a letter of recommendation from a priest in your parish must accompany such application. The parchments are arranged by: Veritas, O'Connell Street, Ennis and O'Mahony's Bookshop, Parnell Street, Ennis.



## Planning the Liturgy for your wedding ceremony

It is certainly the wish of every couple that their wedding day be a memorable occasion, literally a day of a lifetime. The couple have great freedom in choosing the contents of the Marriage Service. Your priest will be happy to discuss the Liturgy with you. Copy of a wedding booklet is available on the Parish website to download.

### What kind of service

There are two kinds of service in the Catholic Church.

*One is a wedding Service with Nuptial Mass.* This is when the wedding itself takes place as part of the Mass.

*The other is a Wedding Service without Mass.*

The part where you make your promises is the same in each and both are joyful celebrations. You may find it helpful to discuss the alternatives with your priest before making a final decision

### Readers

The priest will read the Gospel at your wedding. There will be other readings from the Scriptures. You might like to ask some of your guests to read for you. They will need to practise so they understand what they're reading.

There are also **prayers of the faithful** or "bidding prayers". You can write these yourselves or use a selection from set prayers. The priest will have some general prayers that you can choose from or adapt if you want to. Another guest could read these.

