



Marriage at St Mary's

Something to Celebrate

Deciding to get married is a great decision for both of you and for your families and friends. The Church wants to rejoice with you in your commitment to each other. This decision is the most important one of your life, as you resolve to give yourself to each other for always. This is not something you have decided lightly and it is right that we should all celebrate this decision of yours.

Christian Marriage

By choosing to get married in Church, you are saying some very clear things about how you understand marriage. By Baptism you have become part of Christ's people, in marriage. Christ blesses your commitment and strengthens you by a special sacrament so that you can undertake the privileges and responsibilities of marriage.

The Catholic Church sees Christian marriage as exclusive, for always and as a normal place for raising a family. These are very important matters to undertake, that is why we want to support and encourage you in this great undertaking and that is why prayer should always be part of this decision.

Preliminaries

The Ceremony There are two forms of marriage, the Wedding Service and the Nuptial (Wedding) Mass.

- The Wedding Service is shorter and consists of up to three hymns, three readings, the vows, blessing and signing of the register. The choir, soloist and the organist can also play a part. This service takes about 45 minutes
- When the wedding takes place in the context of Mass, this is called a Nuptial Mass. All the usual parts of the Mass are present, readings, hymns, choral pieces and perhaps a musical Mass setting. The vows are taken after the Gospel and the sermon by the priest. The registers are usually signed at the end. This service takes about an hour and fifteen minutes.



St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Studley

- The readings chosen for your wedding must be from the Catholic Lectionary. The priest will be able to give you a booklet containing a good selection. Please make sure your readers know the form for beginning and ending the readings.
- The hymns should be from the hymn books used in this church - they contain a good selection of traditional and modern hymns
- You should produce your own order of service; the priest will be able to help you with this. It should contain, at the very least, the texts of the readings and hymns.

Flowers and Confetti

- Please provide your own flowers for your wedding. If you don't know a florist the priest will be able to advise you about local firms who are used to working in our Church. Our own Parish flower arrangers may be able to help; the priest will give you their contact details. A few weeks before the date of your wedding please agree a time when the florist can come to the Church to check what is required
- Please ask your guests to use only biodegradable confetti. This should not be thrown near the Church entrance as it is difficult to clear up and quickly looks messy.

Costs

- The Church is highly dependent on weddings for its upkeep and maintenance. There are charges for the use of the Church, certain legal fees for the registration of your marriage and for the services of the presiding priest. All charges will be discussed with you by the priest and will be payable 1 month before the date of your wedding.

Music

- The music used in church should always be of a sacred nature. The reception is the place for other music. In addition you may like to have a choir or a soloist sing at particular points in the ceremony, especially during the signing of the register. At a Nuptial Mass there may also be music at the offertory, at Holy Communion and for the Mass setting itself. Instrumentalists may be used. You will need organ music for the entry and the exit. The priest will give you the contact details of our Parish organist.



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Photography

- Please make sure that this is discreet during the service. Please ask the photographer to liaise with the priest before the service. If there are musicians performing there may also be performers' rights issues.

The Wedding Practice

• We usually have a practice the evening before the wedding, at about 5pm. Obviously the bride and groom need to be there, but it also helps if the best man, the bridesmaids, the bride's father (or whoever is leading her up the aisle) and the ushers can be there too. We practise the entry and the exit, the vows and the rings. Please bring the following things with you:

- a copy of the order of service
- other fees that have been discussed

Useful Contacts

These may be found on our website. If you have questions or need any further information please don't hesitate to contact Fr. Benedict.