

PREPARING FOR YOUR WEDDING



**ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL
HUNTLY STREET
ABERDEEN**

Congratulations on your decision to marry.

The Cathedral clergy will be pleased to assist you in all that you need to do to arrange for your marriage in the Church, to plan your wedding service and to reflect on the Church's understanding of the sacrament of marriage.

Please make an appointment to meet a member of the parish clergy through the 'Marriage' page on our website: stmaryscathedralaberdeen.org.

This leaflet gives a brief outline of the process for arranging your marriage in church.

In deciding the date of your wedding, please note that:

- The Church requires you to give a minimum of **six months notice** of your marriage.
- Weddings may not take place on Good Friday or Holy Saturday.
- Before you finally commit yourself to a date for your wedding reception, you should check with the clergy to ensure that the church is available on that day.

In preparing for your marriage you will be required:-

1. To provide a number of documents such as birth and baptism certificates, letters certifying that you are free to marry etc. The information in the documents will enable you to complete a '**pre nuptial enquiry form**'. It may take time for you to obtain these documents, especially if you have come from another country. The pre nuptial enquiry form must be completed well in advance of your wedding. This is especially the case if you are marrying abroad as the form must be sent first to our own Bishop then by him to the office of the Bishop of the Diocese where you will be married and from there to the parish in which your marriage will take place.

It is quite common for those who are marrying in a country where the postal system is uncertain to send the form by courier. The courier's fee is usually around £75.00.

There is a charge of £25.00 for the administration involved in the preparation of the pre nuptial enquiry form.

2. To attend a marriage preparation course which has two parts that complement one another :-

- A. The 'FOCCUS' Course offered by Scottish Marriage Care.
- B. The marriage preparation course run by the cathedral parish.

Details of the courses and how to register can be found on our website.

3. To comply with the legal requirements of the place where your marriage will take place (This obligation will not apply if you are already civilly married).

If you are marrying in Aberdeen you should contact the Registrar of Marriages (Tel: 01224 522616) not more than three months before your wedding in order to obtain a Marriage Schedule which will authorise the priest/deacon to officiate at your wedding.

If you have a visa from the Home Office, it would be advisable to contact the Registrar of Marriages as soon as possible to get advice as to whether any particular conditions apply to you.

4. If you have a relative/friend who is a priest whom you wish to officiate at your wedding, please discuss this with the clergy.

Recommended Donations for the use of the Cathedral for a Wedding

For those who attend the Cathedral regularly: £100.00.

For those who do not attend the Cathedral: £200.00.

If you have a small number of guests (20 approx.) you may wish to consider using the Chapter Room for which there is a charge of £50.00.

These donations are in addition to the administration fee. All donations to be made before the wedding rehearsal.

Punctuality

Recently, a number of weddings have considerably later than the scheduled time — with consequent disruption to the work of the clergy.

Accordingly, you will be asked to pay a deposit of £100.00 which will be returned if your wedding starts on time.

Music

Our organist, Ronald Leith, will be pleased to advise you about music for your wedding. If you wish him to play at your wedding please arrange the fee with him.