

PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE

St Benedict's Church & St Monica's Church



Wedding Information Leaflet
Updated January 2021

Congratulations on your decision to marry. The priests of St Benedict's Church & St Monica's Church wish you every joy and happiness. Your decision to marry in Church is a public statement of your faith in Jesus Christ, and in celebrating the Sacrament, you are inviting Jesus to be present at the heart of your new life together.

First things first

Experience has shown that couples who undertake some form of pre-marriage preparation are better equipped to face their future together.

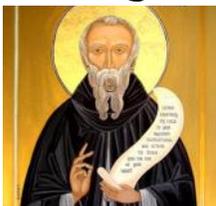
Accord is the Diocesan Marriage care agency who provide pre-marriage courses..



All couples being married in the parish are expected to attend one of these courses. Accord can be contacted at their Harcourt Street Headquarters Tel: 01 478 4400 or on their website www.accord.ie Early booking is essential as courses are in great demand and fill up quickly. Alternatively you can contact

www.together.ie or 01 2964257 who also offer accepted courses. ** online wedding courses are not accepted*

Booking the Church



St Benedict's Church & St Monica's Church should be provisionally booked at the earliest moment possible by contacting the Parish Office info@stbenedicts-stmonicas.ie and filling in a Provisional Booking Form. There is a **€250 booking deposit** (*please see back of leaflet for further information*) required

to secure the Church for your wedding. The booking is provisional until your freedom to marry is established (*see next section*).



Paperwork required

A certain amount of paperwork is involved in your preparation.

This is to establish your freedom to marry and to record your details for Church records.



Your paperwork is the responsibility of the priest of the parish in which you are currently residing, not where you grew up. He should forward the completed papers to the priest at St Benedict's or St Monica's Church who is looking after your preparation, they should arrive at least one month in advance of the wedding.

You will need to provide the following to the priest looking after your papers;

- A Certificate of Baptism (issued within six months of the date of your wedding)
- A Certificate of Confirmation.
- A document known as a "Statement of Freedom to Marry" to be completed by a member of your immediate family and signed and stamped by their local priest. This form can be obtained from the Parish Office or sent to you by email.
- If you are marrying a non-baptised person or a member of another Christian Church you will need to seek a dispensation from the Archbishop. You will need to advise the Parish Office of this at the time of booking and we will provide you with details of the process.
- The priest of your parish will supply and complete the pre-nuptial enquiry form with you.

State requirements



You will need to give notice of your intention to marry to the Civil Registrar. Full details of this process are available on the following website www.gov.ie/gro/

It is imperative that this be done as early as possible to avoid legal complications.



Music

Music can add a great deal to your ceremony. It can create a prayerful and dignified atmosphere of religious celebration. It needs to be carefully planned, please bear in mind that the only music permitted



in the church is specifically religious music. *Please ensure that any singer or musician you engage is aware of these guidelines.*

Flowers

If you wish to have the Altar decorated with floral arrangements please liaise with one of the priests of the parish.

Offerings to the Church

Your booking deposit of €250 covers all costs for the Church on the day of the wedding and is divided between the Archdiocese, the celebrant of the Wedding & the Parish towards the running costs of each Church.

Planning the ceremony

The Wedding ceremony can be a beautiful and very special occasion to remember, it does however require some thought and planning. An excellent resource to assist you is a book by Fr. Pdraig McCarthy called “**A Wedding of your own**”. This contains a complete selection of prayers, scripture readings etc. from which you can choose. It is available from Veritas in Middle Abbey Street or Cathedral Books in Sackville Place.

A good online resource is www.gettingmarried.ie which has a selection of readings/prayers and a booklet template for you to complete. When you have had an opportunity to study the above, the priest officiating at your ceremony will be happy to assist you in your choices.

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Email: info@stbenedicts-stmonicas.ie

Website: stbenedicts-stmonicas.ie