

# **Information for couples seeking to marry in communion of life and love**

God who is love and who created man and woman for love has called them to love. By creating man and woman he called them to an intimate communion of life and love in marriage.”

*(The Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, art. 337)*

## **Introduction**

By choosing to get married in the Catholic Church of your choice you are presumed to be seeking God’s blessing on the aforementioned ‘intimate communion of life and love.’ As your local parish priest I will give you help in preparing for this, both with regard to the wedding and your developing relationship with each other. This leaflet is offered to remind you of what was discussed at your initial meeting with me and to inform you of what will need to be done in the coming months to ensure that when you arrive at your wedding day all the church preparations are in order.

Fr Dominic Adeiza

## **Deciding on the church**

In coming to see me I have presumed that you have already booked the church where you wish to marry with the priest responsible for it. If not, please do this as soon as possible.

Couples decide on a particular church for their wedding for all sorts of reasons. The usual place for a Catholic to marry is their parish church but they can marry in another church by permission of their parish priest and in another suitable place by permission of the local bishop.

Having booked the church the priest will probably have directed you to your local parish priest. This is to ensure that the ‘pre-

nuptial enquiries' are completed.

## The Pre-Nuptial Enquiries

At our initial meeting I will have begun to complete with you a 'Pre-Nuptial Enquiry' form. I will also have advised and assisted you in the completion of what other forms are required.

As part of the pre-nuptial enquiries some or all of the following documents are required:

A **Catholic** must provide:

- i) a recent copy of their Certificate of Baptism (6 months before Marriage) obtainable from the place of baptism.
- ii.) You will need to get a Statutory Declaration of Freedom form signed by a Solicitor, this form will be given to you by the Priest.

A **baptised non-Catholic** must provide:

- i.) documentary proof of Baptism/Christening
- ii.) You will need to get a Statutory Declaration of Freedom form signed by a Solicitor, this form will be given to you by the Priest.

When a Catholic marries a non-Catholic or a person not baptised, ***the Catholic party*** is required to declare either verbally or by signing, that they will do all that they can, *within the unity of their partnership*, to have the children of their marriage baptised and educated in the Catholic faith. This declaration forms part of the 'Pre-Nuptial Enquiry' form and is made after I am satisfied both parties are aware of the implications of it.

## **Marriage Preparation**

I am obliged by the Catholic Church to ensure that those of this parish who enter marriage are suitably disposed to the holiness and obligations of the marital state. Accordingly, I ask that once you have begun the pre-nuptial enquiries with us you make arrangements to participate in a Marriage Preparation Day, one where the focus is not on the wedding but on the marriage. These days are run by Marriage Care, an accredited organisation of the Catholic Church. Please contact by email: [MarriageCare1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:MarriageCare1@yahoo.co.uk) (Tel. No. 07799 786303)

At the Marriage Preparation Day you will be provided with a certificate of attendance. Please bring this for inclusion in your pre-nuptial paperwork.



### **After your attendance on a Marriage Preparation Day**

Please contact our parish office (details on next page) to come and see me for a second time in order that I can complete with you the pre-nuptial enquiries.

When the pre-nuptial enquiries are complete they are sent to the place of marriage by the Chancellor of the Diocese of Portsmouth who sends them to his/her opposite number in the diocese where you are to marry who then forwards it to the place of marriage.

If you have concerns about the reliability of the mail in the country where you are to marry please let me know and I can

provide you with certified copies for you to take to the place of marriage.

## **The Civil registration of Marriage**

If you are marrying in England and Wales you are legally obliged to go in person to your local register office to register your intention to marry. If you are a foreign national it is likely you will also need to contact your embassy to comply with their own requirements.

If you are marrying outside England and Wales it is wise to contact your local register office to hear from them what may be required of you for state recognition of your intention to marry.

For more information, see the General Register Office website: [www.gro.gov.uk](http://www.gro.gov.uk) or contact the local register.

A suggested donation of £100, is recommended to cover Chancellor and administration fees. You may pay to the parish account Parish Account: 00876748 Sort Code..30-93-04

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*The Presbytery  
English Martyrs Catholic Church  
15 Manor Crescent, Didcot, Oxfordshire  
OX11 7AJ  
United Kingdom  
01235 812338  
[www.didcotandwallingfordcatholicchurches.org](http://www.didcotandwallingfordcatholicchurches.org)  
Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity No. 1199568*