MARRIAGE@WN.CATHOLIC.ORG.NZ

PLANNING YOUR WEDDING *day*

Archdiocese OF Wellington

Guidelines and information for engaged couples, as they prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage in Aotearoa New Zealand and overseas.



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Your ceremony

Kia ora!

Welcome to this guide on planning your Catholic wedding day in New Zealand or overseas.

As you make plans for your wedding day, there will be a number of things to check off your list. Please allow at least 6 months to complete the Catholic marriage preparation requirements outlined in this guide.

Every wedding is unique, and your situation will differ from that of other couples, making this guide not a one-size-fits-all solution. There may be things that crop up in the planning of your wedding ceremony that you'll want to discuss. Your Officiating Priest, Marriage Celebrant, Parish Secretary and Archdiocesan Marriage Ministry Staff are all there to help you.

For more information, please welcome to contact:

Marriage Ministry - Church Mission Team
Archdiocese of Wellington
marriage@wn.catholic.org.nz
(04) 496 1719

Website:
www.wn.catholic.org.nz/about/church-mission/marriage-ministries/

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/marriageadw



SECTION 1

Getting married in the Catholic Church

What you need to know...

- The first thing a couple needs to do is to contact the Office of your local Catholic Parish and make an appointment to see your local Priest/Parish Priest.
- You must ensure you have a Priest/Marriage Celebrant who has agreed to officiate your wedding. If this is a Priest from outside your local Parish please inform your Parish Priest as a courtesy.
- Please ensure you book the Church where you wish to marry as early as possible. some churches require this booking one year in advance of your wedding date. It is important to check with your Priest/Marriage Celebrant before you set the date for your wedding as some churches require you to sign an agreement and pay a deposit.
- The Catholic Pre-Nuptial Enquiry Forms for each person marrying are to be completed by the couple with a Priest/Marriage Celebrant present to guide you. You will need to provide:
    - A Baptismal Certificate for marriage purposes. This is to be issued from the place of baptism within 6 months of the proposed marriage date.
    - Confirmation details, if not recorded alongside baptismal details (a separate certificate or copy).
- If you are marrying a non-Catholic, your Priest/Marriage Celebrant will ask you, as the Catholic party, to sign a specific form. It is a simple process. Any necessary permissions and dispensations will be handled accordingly. Your Priest/Marriage Celebrant understands that you may have questions and aims to make this process as friendly and stress-free as possible.
- Enrol in a Marriage Preparation Course well before your wedding day (see Section 2 of this booklet in particular the Course dates).

SECTION 2

Marriage Preparation Programmes

Our aim is to support you in making your marriage the best possible. These courses are open to couples of any or mixed faith, not only for Catholics.

Love is a Decision (LIAD) & COMMIT programmes

LIAD is a group course over two consecutive Sundays from 10am to 4pm, while COMMIT can be scheduled as an individual couple with a Marriage Educator at your convenience. Married couples present the in-person group course and facilitate the Commit Questionnaire with you as an individual couple.

The focus of each step is the discussion between the couple, spending time without distractions and in a relaxed neutral setting, prompting useful discussions between you and your partner, on important topics, things like your unique differences as individuals, your family of origin, continuing to build a life together and your shared values, maintaining healthy communications and ways of managing conflict, and continuing to grow your relationship. The cost is $130.00 per couple.



ENROL NOW

LIAD Course Dates 2024

Couples attend both consecutive Sundays

3 & 10 March
9 & 16 June
8 &15 September
3 & 10 November

Engaged Encounter weekend

The weekend “away from it all” gives couples an unparalleled opportunity to form a closer bond to each other and create a solid foundation for a happy future. It takes place in Karori and runs from Saturday 8am to Sunday 4pm. The cost for this experience is $180.00 per couple.

Further details and registration are available via the link below:
www.wn.catholic.org.nz/about/church-mission/marriage-ministries/
or contact: marriage@wn.catholic.org.nz

SECTION 3

Arranging for a Dossier Transfer of your Pre-Nuptial Enquiry papers to another country for your marriage

- Whether you are planning to get married in New Zealand or overseas, it is essential to reach out to your Priest as soon as possible to arrange an appointment to complete the Pre-Nuptial marriage documents.
- Your marriage documents should be prepared in the location where you currently reside.
- The completed marriage documents will be sent by your Priest to the Vicar General, Monsignor Gerard Burns, in the Archdiocese of Wellington. The Vicar General will then provide any further documentation required and send overseas to the Bishop's representative (either the Vicar General or Vicar for Marriages) in the Diocese's Chancery Office where your wedding is scheduled to take place.
- Once received, these documents will be forwarded to the Priest/Marriage Celebrant who will be officiating your wedding ceremony.

  Please allow at least 6 months for this entire process.

- The shipping cost of this service will be on-charged to the couple after the documents have been delivered.



Civil requirements in New Zealand

GETTING A MARRIAGE LICENCE

Before you get married, you need to apply for a marriage licence. This confirms it's legal for you to marry. A marriage licence costs $150.

- You need to arrange your licence at least 3 working days before you get married and will expire after 3 months.
- Your Priest that will officiate your marriage and is 'the celebrant'. Priests/Marriage Celebrants in New Zealand are registered celebrants with the Department of Internal Affairs. To check if your Priest/Marriage Celebrant is registered, please ask them, if you are unsure. The Vicar General will be able to help with this if any further information is needed.
- You can apply online even if you're not currently residing in New Zealand.

More information on how to apply for a civil marriage is at this link:

www.govt.nz/browse/family-and-whanau/getting-married/get-a-marriage-licence/



Civil requirements for overseas weddings

CERTIFICATE OF NO IMPEDIMENT (CONI)

Some countries will ask you for a document that proves you are not already married in New Zealand. In New Zealand, this document is called a 'Certificate of no impediment to marriage', other countries might call it something different. The Department of Internal Affairs can help you with this.

SECTION 5

Your Ceremony

Your ceremony is the most important aspect of your wedding as it is here that you declare your love and commitment to each other for the rest of your lives in front of your family, friends and God.

You will be preparing your wedding ceremony with the priest/deacon who is officiating at your wedding.
As part of the preparation, you will choose scripture readings, hymns and prayers that are meaningful to both of you and reflect the prayerful setting of the liturgy.

A good place to start is to choose scripture readings that speak to each of you and then as a couple discuss why. Including family members in your liturgy from both sides of the family is one way to celebrate becoming one family.

You can also discuss with your priest/deacon parts of the ceremony which can reflect the languages and culture of you both.

The following links may help with your planning.
www.togetherforlifeonline.com/catholic-wedding-ceremony/ (this book is used in the USA and may differ to current NZ customary practices. Please check with your Priest/Celebrant).

You will receive a hard copy when you attend the Love is a Decision Preparation Course.

www.catholicweddinghelp.com/topics/order-wedding-with-mass.htm





May your love for each other reflect
the enduring love of *Christ*
for his Church.

As you face the future together,
keep in mind that the
Sacrament of Marriage
unites you with *Christ*
and brings you, through the years,
the GRACE and BLESSING of God our Father.

(Blessings for Couples)