

the paperwork will then be forwarded to the Chancery Office at Westminster in order for the dispensation to be granted.



### Getting Married out side the Parish in the UK?

The same procedures apply with a preference for the enquiry paperwork to be completed at the parish of domicile. In such cases you will need full details of the parish and officiating priest. Again, papers will be forwarded to the Chancery Office who will then process and arrange for postage to the Diocese/parish of marriage. Some priests, however, do prefer to complete the paperwork themselves and ask for letters of permission to be sent.

### Getting Married Abroad?

Some countries require that Catholics be Confirmed prior to marriage. Please check this first with the officiating priest. Should you find yourself wishing to be Confirmed, please contact the Parish Office as soon as possible and do not arrange any dates.



All documentation remains the same as outlined previously. However, additional documentation may be required. This varies from country to country and is frequently updated. Please do make enquiries and do not rely solely in information given by other sources, such as a wedding planner. The earlier the notice given for marriages abroad, including Eire, the better.

## Useful Information

### Websites

[www.rcdow.org.uk/pastoralaffairs](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/pastoralaffairs)  
- for details of preparation courses available in the diocese

[www.marriagecare.org.uk/gettingmarried.php](http://www.marriagecare.org.uk/gettingmarried.php) or  
[marriagecarelondon@lineone.net](mailto:marriagecarelondon@lineone.net)  
- for details about preparation courses run by Marriage Care

[www.gettingmarried.ie](http://www.gettingmarried.ie)  
- for guidance and help in many aspects of preparing for marriage, including orders of service

[www.catholicmarriagepreparationonline.com](http://www.catholicmarriagepreparationonline.com)  
- an online American preparation course accepted by the Diocese of Westminster. Give yourself 3 months in which to complete this.



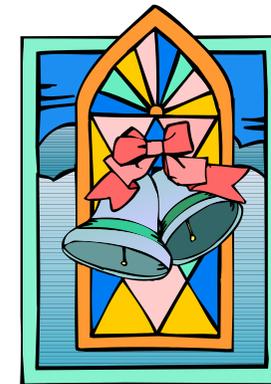
### St Peter & Paul's Catholic Church

38, Camborne Avenue,  
Ealing,  
W13 9QZ

Phone: 020 8567 5421  
Fax: 020 8579 0722  
E-mail: [northfields@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:northfields@rcdow.org.uk)

# Thinking of Getting Married...?

## Marriage Preparation...



**For civil requirements: contact your local registry office**

**For requirements for Church weddings: read on...**

# Getting Married in Church

This leaflet is designed to give some guidance regarding arranging a wedding, whether it is to take place in the parish of residence or elsewhere. It does not provide all information, so please check on enquiry. It attempts to deal with arrangements in some sort of chronological order.



## Booking the Date

Whenever possible, give 6 months notice of proposed wedding by contacting the parish and checking available dates. This is a Diocesan

guideline and is given so that you have time to gather all necessary paperwork and arrange marriage preparation (see below) Do this before confirming reception venue. If either of you have been married before, whether religiously or civilly, **do not** set any dates. Seek more information on enquiry.

## Marriage Preparation

This is a requirement for any marriage recognized by the Catholic Church and must be recognized as a **Catholic** preparation course. St Peter and Paul's currently runs a one day course once a year in the spring. If this is not convenient, details of where to find a course are given on the diocesan website: [www.rcdow.org.uk/pastoralaffairs](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/pastoralaffairs).



This website also provides links to other websites giving information about Catholic marriage. Please obtain a certificate or letter stating you have completed a course.

## Paperwork: Marriage Enquiry Forms

The Catholic Church requires a certain amount of paperwork to be completed in relation to your marriage. This is in addition to anything you may have to do with the local registrar.



## Documents Required

A new copy of baptism certificates obtained from parish of baptism; Confirmation certificate; statutory declarations of freedom. Copies of the latter are available on enquiry to be taken to a solicitor/commissioner of oaths.

Once you have all the above documentation, make an appointment to complete the forms. If bride and groom are both Catholic and you are getting married at St. Peter & Paul's, the paperwork remains in Northfields and is kept indefinitely. For other cases, the paperwork has to be sent to the Diocesan Chancery Office for processing, then sent on to the equivalent office in the diocese of marriage who then send it on to the parish in which you are due to be married. There is a donation requested, details of which will be given on enquiry.

## Preparing for the Ceremony

Make an appointment to go through the order of service for readings, music, etc.



Contact details of organists and parish flower group will be given on request and if required. Please provide the priest celebrant with a copy to proof read **before** printing or sending to a printers.

## Rehearsal

A short rehearsal of the ceremony normally takes place during the week leading up to the wedding day. Bride, groom, best man, chief bridesmaid and person giving away the bride would normally attend. Details given when arranging the day and time. Please also bring with you the registrar's **blue certificate**. This document is essential for the marriage to take place.

## FAQs

### Partner not Catholic or not baptized? Getting married in a non-Catholic Church?

This is not usually a problem! An application for a dispensation (special permission) will have to be made. This is done as part of the enquiry process. In such cases, the paperwork will then be forwarded to the Chancery Office at Westminster in order for the dispensation to be granted.