



Parishes of
Greystones
& Kilquade

**“LOVE
ONE ANOTHER
AS I HAVE LOVED YOU”**

**CELEBRATING THE
SACRAMENT OF
MATRIMONY**

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When the Catholic Church teaches that marriage is a sacrament, it is saying that your relationship expresses in a unique way the unbreakable bond of love between Christ and his people. Like the other six sacraments of the Church, marriage is a sign or symbol which reveals the Lord Jesus and through which his divine life and love are communicated.

In a sacramental marriage, God's love becomes present to you in your total union and also flows through you to your family and community. By your permanent, faithful and exclusive giving to each other you, as a couple, reveal something of God's unconditional love.



The sacrament of Christian marriage involves your entire life as you journey together through the ups and downs of marriage and become more able to give to and receive from each other. Your life becomes sacramental to the extent that you cooperate with God's action in your life and that you see yourselves as living "in Christ" and Christ living and acting in your relationship, attitudes and actions.

In marriage, the grace of this sacrament brings to you both the particular help you need to be faithful to each other and to be good parents. It also helps a you to serve others beyond your immediate family and to show the community that a loving and lasting marriage is both desirable and possible.

Pope Paul VI wrote: "By it [the Sacrament of Marriage] husband and wife are strengthened and...consecrated for the faithful accomplishment of their proper duties, for the carrying out of their proper vocation even to perfection, and the Christian witness which is proper to them before the whole world"

The priests of the Parish of Greystones and Kilquade want your wedding day to be a truly memorable and sacred celebration. It is important to us that you are happy not just on the day but for the rest of your lives.

A wedding is a day, but a marriage is for a lifetime together. For that reason we would strongly encourage you to make sure that you plan not only the wedding

day but more importantly for your married life together well in advance, especially by taking part in a Pre-Marriage course.

This booklet offers information and guidelines regarding the celebration of your wedding day in the Parishes of Greystones and Kilquade.

WEDDING DAY PLANNING

ESSENTIAL STEPS

These steps will assist in making the process run smoothly for you and those involved in organising and celebrating this Sacrament.

Notice to Church and Marriage Preparation Papers:

As soon as you have chosen a date for your marriage, please ring the Parish Office to ensure that the date is available in the Church. Three months notice must be given to Church. You also need to notify the priest(s) of the parish(es) where you live - since it is he/they who will be completing the Pre-Nuptial Enquiry Papers which must be completed at least one month in advance of the wedding and sent to the parish where you are celebrating your wedding.

In order to complete your Pre Nuptial Enquiry Paper both of you will require the following:

- Newly issued Baptismal Certificate (issued by parish where Baptism was celebrated.)
- Confirmation Certificate (issued by parish where Confirmation was celebrated.)

All certificates are to be Issued within 6 months of the wedding date.

- Statements of Freedom to Marry by the bride and the groom (obtained from your local parish.) Locally, email weddings@gkpastoralarea.ie. This may be completed by a parent or close relative and signed and stamped by the priest. Alternatively an Affidavit may be given to confirm freedom to marry.
- Completed Pre-marriage Course Certificate .

Pre-nuptial Papers will be completed by the priest of the parish in which you currently live. The priest will forward those completed documents to the parish where your wedding is being celebrated.



Civil Requirements:

All couples who wish to marry in the Republic of Ireland are required to give a minimum of 3 month's notice to a civil Registrar of their intention to marry. The Civil Registrar for this parish maybe contacted on 01 - 9213710 . You may book a Marriage Notification appointment at www.crsappointments.ie For more information visit www.civilregistrationservice.ie

Pre-Marriage Course:

The priest of your parish is responsible for ensuring that people who marry in the church are adequately prepared. The most common form of preparation is one of the recommended pre-marriage courses. The course should be booked and completed at least six months before the wedding. To book a course ring ACCORD 01- 4784400 . www.accord.ie

Mixed Faith Marriage:

If your partner is not Catholic, a dispensation will be required from the Bishop. Please contact your local priest in good time to enquire about what is required.

Celebrant for your Wedding:

Most couples celebrate their wedding day in the home parish of the bride. Couples from outside the Parishes of Greystones and Kilquade must have confirmation that they have a Priest for their wedding ceremony before a booking will be accepted.

WEDDING DAY GUIDELINES

Your wedding ceremony is the keystone to the whole day, it is why you will gather with family and friends later for a meal and dancing etc. Your whole preparation should flow into that moment you exchange your marriage vows as the rest of your lives will be live out of that same moment. So give it the time it needs to be a joyous and sacred celebration. Both of you should take time to prepare with your priest the wedding celebration well in advance.

Day and Time:

As Sunday is the day when the Church community gathers for Eucharist, Sunday weddings are not permitted in the Archdiocese of Dublin. Our churches are sacred spaces for our faith community and not wedding venues so please note that you do not book the church for the day. Weddings are generally between 12 noon and 2.30pm subject to church schedules. As a courtesy to your guests and the priest we do expect couples to be punctual as there maybe other ceremonies celebrated in the church on that day.

Venue:

Our churches are sacred spaces and daily gathering places for prayer and worship. We work hard to keep them clean, tidy and safe spaces for all. Church furnishings are not to be moved. No furnishings can be brought into the church. We do ask you and your guests to respect our churches and grounds and to leave them as you found them. We do NOT allow the use of lanterns, confetti, rice or rose petals in the church or grounds. Bubbles etc. are not allowed in the church. Snacks and beverages for guests may not be distributed or consumed in the Church or the grounds. If booklets are used, please gather them up and take them away after the ceremony.

Music:

Music plays a big part in any wedding day celebration. Its role at the Church is to enable those present to prayerfully and joyfully participate in the celebration of the sacrament of which you are the ministers. It is important that the music you choose is worthy of such a celebration and that the lyrics acknowledge the presence of Christ, the Unseen Guest, at your wedding. Please consult with your priest about the music.

Flowers:

We advise that you visit the church and seek advice on what is suitable for the church. Below are guidelines are for the health and safety of you and your guests as well as our churches.

Flowers are not permitted on seats, pillars or where they may endanger other or cause an obstruction to the celebration of the ceremony. The use of nails, screws, thumbtacks, adhesive tape, blue tack etc. are not allowed so we can ensure we protect our churches. Flower arches are not permitted. If unsure please contact the wedding coordinator who will be only too happy to advise.

During the Easter, Christmas seasons and on other solemnities, our churches will be decorated. Such floral displays are not to be altered or removed. Couples are requested to bring their own unity candles and holders if required.

Videos and Photography:

These may be used provided they do not intrude on the ceremony and its celebration. It is essential that your photographer check with the celebrant before the ceremony commences.

The Next Steps:

If you are happy to abide by these guidelines and would like to celebrate your wedding day in one of the churches of the Parishes of Greystones and Kilquade we are delighted and we look forward to being a part of your special day as you celebrate this new and sacred beginning.

Couples are then requested to make the EFT payment and return the Booking Form to the Pastoral Area Wedding Co-ordinator, Pastoral Area of Greystones and Kilquade Office, c/o St. Patricks Church, Kilquade, Co. Wicklow or by email (see below).

IBAN: IE20 BOFI 9011 3214 205672

Further enquiries may be directed to weddings@gkpastoralarea.ie or phone 01 281 9658

Thank-you. May the Lord guide you in your planning of your wedding day.