

Music

Please discuss this with the celebrant before committing to an Order of Service

Additional Details

Prenuptial Enquiry	
Baptism/Confirmation	
Letter of Freedom	
Dispensation(s)	
Nihil Obstat	
Prep Course Certificate	
Schedule of Marriage	

Archdiocese of Glasgow



Planning your wedding



Guidelines

Preparing the liturgy for the celebration of Marriage is an exciting and important part of your Marriage preparation. By the time you come to prepare the liturgy, much of the other important work has been completed and there is a sense of satisfaction as you prepare for the wedding day itself.

The Rite of Marriage offers great flexibility for couples to 'personalise' the celebration of marriage in the context of the Church's universal worship. The choices that the couple can and should be involved in relate to the lectionary (scripture readings) and the choice of music for the celebration. Of course, to ensure that Catholic teaching is brought out in the celebration of the rite, it is the priest or deacon who will guide the couple through the rite itself, to ensure that each couple has the opportunity to make wise suitable and choices. The notes which follow offer some suggestions which would help the couple in preparing the liturgy of marriage.

The wedding liturgy is an act of worship of the gathered community: it is a celebration of the parish community. The choice of prayers, readings and sacred songs should be an expression of the worship of the parish community and the gathered Christian assembly. Well-chosen selections can draw people into the celebration with heart, mind and spirit in a way that nothing else can. The couple will want those who come to the wedding liturgy to enter into the celebration by participating fully in the liturgy.

The celebration of the community's Sunday liturgy is the norm for all celebrations in a parish, including weddings. For this reason the couple should approach the parish clergy and music ministers to plan the liturgy for their wedding, and music, for the most part, should be that which is used for Sunday liturgies.

Singers and musicians must be aware that they are not on stage nor are they there to entertain; their role is to serve the worship of the

Basic Information

Groom's Name	
Bride's Name	
Date of Marriage	
Time of Marriage	
Place and time of reception	

The Celebration itself

Type of Celebration	
Old Testament Reading:	Reference:
	Reader:
New Testament Reading	Reference:
	Reader:
Gospel: <i>Read by the celebrant</i>	Reference:
Prayer of the Faithful	Reader:
Organist	
Instrumentalist/s	
Cantor	

Preparing an Order of service:

It is not uncommon for the bride and groom to want to prepare an Order of Service for the celebration of Marriage. In such cases, however, the priest or deacon preparing the liturgy with the couple will advise on what is permissible. In order to reproduce the words of hymns which have been chosen, it is necessary that appropriate permission has been granted to do so (i.e. a copyright licence). An acknowledgement of copyright permission should appear on any printed material.

The Liturgy of the Word is proclaimed for all to hear, hence the assembly are engaged in active listening. When preparing printed materials keep this in mind. It is acceptable to note the reference for the texts used, however, it would not normally be the case that scripture readings be printed in their entirety.

The preparation for Marriage is an exciting time in the life of the couple and the Church is here to help the couple make the most of the celebration. These notes provide a pastoral guide to the celebration of Christian Marriage and allow the couple to fruitfully celebrate a most beautiful rite of the Catholic Church.

community. An individual singer is not a "soloist" as such, but functions as a cantor whose role is to sing the psalm and be the "animator" of the community's song.

When planning the liturgy, there are several things to keep in mind and these can be explained through the rhythm of the liturgical celebration. For example, liturgical singing has a purpose: it always accompanies ritual and gesture and so the choices made should reflect what is happening at the given moment.

In order to prepare well, the couple should take some time to reflect on the appropriate scripture readings for the rite of marriage, as directed by the parish clergy. When suitable readings have been chosen, it will be easier to choose hymns for the celebration which should bring out the sentiments of the chosen readings.

Introductory Rites and Liturgy of the Word

- **The Entrance Song** should be a joyful song of praise and thanksgiving to God. This song may be sung during the procession or after the procession has been completed.

- **The Liturgy of the Word** comes always from the lectionary. The readings should reinforce some aspect of the meaning of Christian Marriage and, through the homily, be related to the couple's future life together. Normally the first reading comes from the Old Testament, followed by its psalm. The second reading comes from the New Testament. However, sensitivity should be taken to the liturgical season, for example, in Advent and Lent, one reading could be chosen to harmonise with the season's thought. During the Easter Season, the first reading comes from one of the New Testament Easter readings offered in the lectionary.

- **The Responsorial Psalm** which follows the first reading is an important sung part of the liturgy. There are various settings of Psalm 127 (recommended for weddings), although there are also suggestions for

other psalms in the lectionary.

- **The Gospel Acclamation** is sung before the proclamation of the gospel. Led by the cantor, the setting chosen should be familiar to allow the assembly to participate well. It should also be appropriate for the liturgical season.

-The **Prayer of the Faithful** should retain the usual sequence of intentions, although special intentions may be composed by the couple, with the assistance of the clergy. The format in which they are expressed must conform to the principle that they are not in themselves prayers to God, but are intentions proposed to the faithful, who then pray for them in silence and by their response.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

- The **acclamations of the Eucharistic Prayer**: Holy, Holy; Memorial Acclamation; Great Amen are meant to be sung. Singing a setting of these used at the parish Sunday liturgy will make it easier for the assembly to sing. The same applies to the Lamb of God.

The COMMUNION SONG should be about what the community is doing: receiving Holy Communion. There are many suitable hymns which can be sung at this point, and the couple should refer to the parish hymnal. Any other songs, especially a soloist singing "Ave Maria" or any other Marian song, should **NOT** be used at this point.

(If a couple wishes to use a Marian song, or another religious song that does not function within the liturgy, it may be used either before the liturgy begins or during the signing of the register.)



In general:

The musical resources in the parish (i.e. the clergy, hymnal, organist, cantor) will be able to determine appropriate musical choices. Hymns should be related to the chosen scripture readings. **Songs from the entertainment world are never suitable for the wedding liturgy.**

(There may be songs, especially love songs, which are very significant for a couple. These need not be used in the liturgy but can be used at some other time during the wedding day, e.g. during the reception.)

Instrumental music also has a place in the wedding liturgy, e.g. the processional (which should be followed by an opening hymn) and the recessional. The "soap opera" wedding is not a good model for the Christian marriage liturgy.

Taped music is not acceptable for the liturgy. The liturgy is the action of the people there to worship, and music which is not "live" music contradicts this principle.

When choosing liturgical music, you may wish to ask the following questions to ascertain their suitability for the celebration:

- *Will this song help all present to open themselves to God: will it enhance the worship or be a distraction?*
- *Do the words express a Christian view of love? Are they fitting for the celebration of a sacrament of the Church?*
- *Does the song fit the part of the liturgy for which it is intended?*
- *Does the music draw people into real participation or does it invite them to become mere spectators?*
- *Is the song within the capabilities of those singing and playing it?*