



Your Wedding in Sacred Heart Church, Wimbledon

Congratulations if you have decided to get Married. In Christian Marriage a man and a woman commit themselves exclusively to each other in love for the rest of their lives. Marriage is part of the natural law but is also part of God's plan for us. Marriage between two Baptized Christians is the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, and the union is blessed by God.

Preliminaries

You can book the Church a year or so in advance (through the Parish Office). The Church is normally available for Weddings between 12:00 noon and 5:00pm each day. We will not take bookings for certain dates, such as in Holy Week, All Souls Day, or Holydays of Obligation.

You must make an appointment to see one of the priests **at least 6 months** before the date of the Wedding, unless you live in another parish, in which case you must go and see the Parish Priest of that parish. The priest of the parish in which you live will supervise the paperwork and explain what you need to do. You are also required to attend a diocesan Preparation Course, mainly about Married life. This is usually a Friday evening and the following Saturday.

The priest will help you choose the ceremony: it could be a full Nuptial Mass or a shorter Wedding Service without Mass. We recommend obtaining *Celebrating your Marriage in the Catholic Church* by Allen Morris, which gives you information about readings, music, the vows and so on.

You must also make an appointment to see the civil Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths. The priest will explain this at your first meeting with him. There will be a statutory fee to pay.

If one or both of you has been Married previously - in any way, whether in church, Register Office or by local custom - you must make an appointment to see your Parish Priest as soon as possible, as the prior Marriage will have to be Annulled before a Church Wedding can take place.

If one party is not a Catholic

To marry in a Catholic Church either the bride or the groom must be a Baptized Catholic. Catholics should also be Confirmed; if you have not been Confirmed ask the priest to arrange your Confirmation. If the other person is not a Catholic, this is not a problem.

Music

We are fortunate in being able to offer exceptional facilities for wedding music. There is a magnificent historic Walker organ and a Steinway concert piano. All arrangements for music at your Wedding must be made through the Director of Music, Robert Rathbone (email robert.rathbone@mac.com or telephone 01372 841442), who will be happy to advise you on your choice of music. It is important that you look at the 'Weddings' page on the Sacred Heart Parish Music website www.sacredheartmusic.co.uk/weddings, where you will find information and music suggestions, and the booking and fee arrangements. The basic fee is £150 for an organist without video-recording.

Flowers

Please note, **outside florists are not permitted for Weddings in the Church**, other than for the provision of fresh pew ends with prior agreement from the Parish Flower Group. We provide one pedestal arrangement on the Sanctuary, an arrangement at Our Lady's statue, and an arrangement under the Altar. In addition, except during Advent and Lent, we provide two large pedestal arrangements at the entrance to the Church. The suggested contribution is £300 per wedding, to include the provision of flowers.

Contact the Flower Group at sacredheartflowers@outlook.com with your contact details, date and time of the Wedding, colour preference and any additional information (eg the inclusion/exclusion of a particular flower). Further information about flowers is available at www.sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk/Groups/290594/Flower_Group.aspx.

Civil registration

Our Parish Authorised Person (who civilly registers the Marriage) is Paul Davis. His fee is £100. He will attend the rehearsal, when you will be asked to double check the details on the civil Wedding Schedule.

Live streaming

The ceremony will automatically be live streamed on the parish website, unless you request otherwise. Contact Thelma in the Office to have the ceremony recorded (cost £120).

Witnesses

At the ceremony you will need two adults, who sign the Schedule to indicate that they have witnessed you taking the vows.

Fees

See above for fees for music, flowers and the Authorised Person. In addition, a donation to the Church and the priest should be made; this would normally be £500. If you are not registered in the parish and live outside the parish we would expect an additional £200. Fees must be paid by the rehearsal at the latest, and be paid by cheque (payable to RCAS Wimbledon), the dona machine in the Church entrance, or by bank transfer to NatWest, RCAS Wimbledon, 60-24-07, 33138915 (giving Wedding + name + date of the Wedding in the reference).

Contact

Parish Office: wimbledon@rcaos.org.uk, 020 8946 0305.

Website: www.sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk.