

**Parish of St. Thomas the Apostle
Laurel Lodge / Carpenterstown**

Marriage Requirements for Couples

Please download and complete the Provisional Booking Form from the website as soon as possible.

Please bear in mind the following:

- All couples must contact the Civil Registrar and make an appointment to give their three months notification of intention to marry (in person). We recommend that you contact the Registrar at least six months in advance of your wedding.
- Couples must complete a Pre-Marriage Course, Diocesan Agency ACCORD will assist you at 01-4780866/www.accord.ie. This should be undertaken as early as possible.
- Readings must be from Scripture and Marriage Rite official Church format. Couples are not obliged to celebrate with a Mass where neither are practising or in mixed religions.
- Non-parishioners i.e. those living outside the parish should ideally have their own priest to celebrate the wedding who must be recognised by the State as a listed Solemniser.
- All relevant Church documents should be completed at least a month in advance. In the case of couples living outside the State where one party may be non-Catholic paperwork takes longer to complete. Documents you will require for both are:
 - **Pre-Nuptial Enquiry Form (to be completed with your local priest of your parish).**
 - **Statement of Freedom to Marry Form.**
 - **Confirmation Certificate.**
 - **Recently issued Baptismal Certificate (6 months or less).**

At least three months' notice should be given to the parish of both parties. A Dispensation is required for mixed religions and this should be requested months in advance as it takes time.

Couples are now responsible themselves for Civil Registration and must have the relevant document (Marriage Registration Form) on the day or the marriage may not proceed.

Flowers, music etc., can be discussed with our Sacristan. Photographers must not intrude or distract or stand in the Sanctuary area.

The church fees which must be paid at least one month in advance are **Parishioners €300** and **Non-Parishioners €350**. Non-Parishioners and Parishioners with their own priest must pay this fee separate to the offering they give to their priest celebrant.

If you have any queries at any time I will be happy to answer them.

With every Good Wish and Blessing.

Damian McNeice

Fr. Damian McNeice, P.P.