



## CHURCH OF THE SAINT ANSELM, SOUTHALL INFORMATION FOR MARRIAGES

It is not possible to celebrate weddings in the church during Passiontide  
(that is in the fortnight leading up to Easter)

### GETTING MARRIED IN SAINT ANSELM'S

We welcome enquiries concerning marriage which should be made to  
Parish Priest in the first instance.

### REGISTRAR:

You must visit your local Registry Office (or Offices if you live in different districts) to give notice of your intention to marry and to apply for a certificate which permits you to be married. **This is essential** and can be done from 12 months before the date of your wedding - it is advisable to attend as soon as possible within this period. The certificate(s) will be issued about one month later and you should then send it/them to the Registrar at Saint Anselm Rectory without delay. It is absolutely essential that the certificates are presented to the Church since the wedding cannot take place without them. These must be applied for as soon as possible and not less than twenty one days before the wedding. You will each pay a fee of £30.00 for giving notice at the Registry Office and also a fee of £43.50 on the wedding day, payable to the Registrar. Both of these are statutory fees and are subject to change from time to time. The two certificates must be in the hands of the priest at the latest by the week before the wedding, otherwise the wedding cannot take place.

### SIX MONTHS NOTICE TO THE CHURCH (at least):

In accordance with diocesan regulations, couples seeking to get married must give at least six months notice and are required to attend a number of sessions with the priest to prepare for marriage. In addition, it is required that couples attend a Marriage Preparation Course.

## FREEDOM TO MARRY:

At least one of the couple should be a baptised Catholic. Usually, at least one of the parties will live in St Anselm's parish or come to Mass here

A Catholic can marry anyone of any religion or of no religion, as long as both parties are free to marry in the eyes of the Church and the non-Catholic has no objection to the Catholic party maintaining his/her faith and handing it on to their children.

In the initial interview with the priest, he will ask you some factual questions about your name, address, date of birth, date of baptism and confirmation. He will ask you if you have been married before and whether you understand and are committed to a life-long faithful relationship as the Catholic Church understands marriage. He will also ask you if you are free to marry, and if you are marrying in freedom.

Both parties must be free to marry in the eyes of the Church and we can examine this, if necessary. (The fact that one party is not a Catholic or has been married before will not necessarily prevent the marriage taking place, but we would need to look at the circumstances. **No date should be set for the marriage until it is made clear that the couple is free to marry in the eyes of the Church**)

## DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:

Please note it often takes time for all the documents and paperwork to be completed and processed. Couples, therefore, should begin the process of gathering all the necessary documents as soon as possible after their first interview with the Priest.

Please do not be foolish and put this off

**A new Certificate of Baptism & A Letter of Freedom to marry** to be obtained within six months of the wedding. The reason for this is that the record of your confirmation and the record of your marriage are sent to your parish of baptism. A search is made of the baptism register where you were baptised and if there is no entry for marriage you are declared to be free to marry. The church of your baptism then issues a new certificate of Baptism and a letter declaring you free to marry.

ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES ONLY ARE ACCEPTABLE.

COPIES ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE

**In the case of a non-Catholic Christian, a certificate of Baptism is necessary.**

**Confirmation Certificate:** A Catholic is required to present their Confirmation certificate if they have been confirmed

**Letter of Freedom:** for a Catholic, a letter of freedom from your home parish priest is required if you do not live in this parish. This letter of freedom is an official document attesting to the fact that the Marriage Registers in the parish where you live have been searched and there is no evidence that you have entered into marriage while resident in the parish.

**Letter of Permission:** for a Catholic, a letter of permission to marry in St Anselm's Church from your home parish priest is required if you do not live in this parish.

**DECLARATION OF FREEDOM TO MARRY:** Evidence of freedom to marry should be in the form of a Statutory Declaration of Freedom sworn in front of a Commissioner of Oaths/Solicitor. A diocesan form is to be used so that there is only a nominal fee of £5-£10 for each party, notarised by a Commissioner for Oaths/ Solicitor e.g. POLPITIYA & CO, Solicitors, 66 King Street, Southall UB2 4DD  
Tel: 020 8813 9282)

#### **MARRIAGE BETWEEN A CATHOLIC AND A NON-CATHOLIC:**

Where a Catholic is being married to a non-Catholic the marriage papers must be sent to the Chancery Office of the Archdiocese for permissions and dispensations to be married. **A £30 offering is suggested for all marriage cases processed through the Chancery Office**

**IF YOUR PAPERS HAVE TO BE SENT TO THE CHANCERY OFFICE  
PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU GIVE THEM TO THE PRIEST AT LEAST SIX  
WEEKS BEFORE THE WEDDING**

#### MARRIAGE PREPARATION:

Your wedding should be the culmination of much prayer and reflection.

#### INTERVIEWS WITH PRIEST:

You will meet with the priest several times.

#### MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE:

Each couple must complete a marriage preparation course. Please see the attached sheets for information about Marriage Preparation Courses in the Archdiocese of Westminster

#### PHOTOGRAPHS:

You can employ any photographer you wish and they will be allowed only at designated places in the church. The use of video cameras is permitted with the same conditions and without additional lighting.

#### CONFETTI:

Under no circumstances is the use of confetti of any kind permitted either inside or outside the church.

#### FLOWERS:

Please contact the Parish Flower Group at least one month before you are to be married if you wish flowers to be arranged for your wedding (ring the Parish Office 020 8574 3300)

#### CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE SUPPORT OF THE CHURCH:

A contribution towards the support of the Church is at your discretion; as a guide we suggest £60.

-oOo-