



## CHURCH OF THE SAINT ANSELM, SOUTHALL INFORMATION FOR THOSE GETTING MARRIED ABROAD

### GETTING MARRIED OVERSEAS:

You must provide the Parish Priest of St Anselm with a letter from the parish priest of the place where you wish to be married.

You will bring the necessary documentation (see below) to the parish priest of St Anselm and he will make arrangements for Pre-marriage instruction.

Completed documentation must be sent by the priest from St Anselm's to the Chancery Office in Westminster for approval and then forwarded by the Chancery here to the Chancery of the Diocese of marriage who will take any required action and then forward them on to the parish of marriage.

Please note this all takes a considerable amount of time so it is not possible to leave arrangements to the last minute. **There can be no guarantee that the couple will be able to marry in the Catholic Church on the date they have chosen if arrangements are left to the last minute.**

### **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**

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 TO THE LAST MINUTE. THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IF YOU HAVE TO SEND OVERSEAS FOR BAPTISM CERTIFICATES ETC

**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

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)

If your fiancé is a Catholic and is completing marriage preparation in another country you should provide the priest in St Anselm's with a copy of his/her recent baptism certificate, confirmation details

### 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**

### PAPERS FOR MARRIAGES TAKING PLACE OVERSEAS

**Please remember if you are being married abroad papers must be sent to the Chancery in Westminster to be processed. Please allow plenty of time for this.**

You may wish your marriage papers the Chancery to be sent via courier rather than regular mail. This is especially helpful where a particular country has an unreliable postal service. The average cost of sending papers via courier is £50. If it is the couple's wish that papers be sent in this way, the sum of £50 should be enclosed with the papers when they are sent to the Chancery.

### 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.

Where it is not possible to complete a marriage preparation course together in this country you should try to arrange, if possible, to complete a course together where you are planning to marry before the wedding. If that is not possible then follow one of the courses available in the Archdiocese of Westminster. You may wish to seek the advice of our Parish Administrator, Mrs Jacqui Carr (020 8574 3300), in finding a suitable course for you.

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