

## *The Art of Marriage*

A good marriage must be created.  
In marriage the little things are the big things.  
It is never being too old to hold hands.  
It is remembering to say "I love you" at least once each day.  
It is never going to sleep angry.  
It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives.  
It is standing together facing the world.  
It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family.  
It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.  
It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.  
It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow.  
It is a common search for the good and the beautiful.  
It is not only marrying the right person - it is being the right partner.

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## *Your Wedding in the Parish of Listowel*



*Congratulations to you on your engagement! We hope that your marriage preparation will be fruitful and that your love for each other and your relationship with Christ will grow. We pray that your marriage, will be a sign of Christ's love for his people.*

*We are happy to be a part of your Wedding preparations and hope the following information will be helpful to you.*

### **THREE MONTHS NOTICE TO THE CHURCH**

- ❖ Three months notice of the marriage has to be given to the Parish Office in order to book the church and fill in the pre-nuptial enquiry form.

- ❖ Likewise, you must make direct contact with the Parish Priest should you wish him to officiate at the wedding.
- ❖ If it is an outside priest, one must make sure that he is on the List of Solemnisers' submitted by each local Bishop to the Registrar General.
- ❖ A Pre-Nuptial Enquiry form must be filled by each of the couple. The bride will need to make an appointment with the priest of the parish where she lives, and the groom's form is completed by the priest of his parish.
- ❖ Recent (6 months or less) Baptismal and Confirmation certificates are required. A letter of freedom is also necessary if either of the couple lived for six months or more in another parish.



### THREE MONTHS NOTICE TO THE STATE

- ❖ In order to comply with the civil requirement, the State also needs you to give them at least three months notice in advance of the wedding. The couple must meet any Civil Registrar in person to give notice of your intention to marry. Registrar contact number 068-21222.
- ❖ The couple will need to know that the church is available prior to the meeting - and they will also need to know the name of the priest who will solemnise the marriage.
- ❖ When all the civil requirements have been completed satisfactorily - the couple will receive the Marriage Registration Form (MRF) from the Registrar. **Without this form the couple cannot get married nor may the solemniser proceed with the marriage ceremony.**
- ❖ The Civil papers are entirely the responsibility of the couple getting married (i.e. the couple must present the MRF to the solemniser as early as is convenient before the wedding and ensure that the signed MRF is returned again to the Civil Registrar not later than one month after the wedding).
- ❖ A verbal declaration of no civil impediment has to be made not more than two days before the wedding in the presence of the two witnesses and the solemniser. It recommended practice that this declaration be made at the beginning of the wedding, when the bride and groom arrive at the sanctuary.

### OTHER THINGS THE COUPLE MUST NOTE:

- ❖ **Pre-Marriage Course:** The pre-marriage course that is approved by the Diocese. A pre-marriage course may be arranged through ACCORD

TRALEE 066 - 7122280. Early booking is essential. Also Mount Argus (**Fr. Pat Rogers**) is approved 01-2964257.

- ❖ **Booking the Church:** A non- refundable offering of **€150.00** is payable at the Parish Office for the use of the church. This confirms your booking. It also includes the offering of **€30.00** given to the Sacristan who assists at the wedding mass. The amount of the offering that you give to the Priest who officiates at the wedding is separate and is at your own discretion.
- ❖ **For further help and advice**, check out the link on '**getting married**' in our Kerry Diocesan Web site at: [www.dioceseofkerry.ie](http://www.dioceseofkerry.ie) or check out [www.gettingmarried.ie](http://www.gettingmarried.ie) which is very helpful in planning the ceremony.
- ❖ **Confession:** We also encourage you, as part of the preparation for your wedding, to avail of the opportunity to make a good confession.
- ❖ **Music:** Secular music and love songs are not appropriate. The celebrant for your Wedding Mass should be consulted about the choice of music.
- ❖ **Video & Photography:** A video recording / photography is permitted on the understanding that the photographer / video technician is dressed becomingly and will remain outside the sanctuary – and is in a position which will not cause a distraction or disrupt the ceremony.
- ❖ **Flowers:** Flowers and plants should be used with discretion and discussed with the Sacristan. As our church is beautiful, flowers need only be used sparingly. It is Diocesan policy not to use artificial flowers and arches because of insurance purposes and we ask people not to use naked lighted candles outside the altar. Also, we ask people not to use rice, confetti or anything else that might be scattered on the church grounds.
- ❖ **Be on time.** Out of consideration for all concerned, the bride should be present on time - as delay inconveniences everybody. Finally, enjoy your special day and we wish you every happiness and God's blessing in your future life together.

*May the peace of Christ ever dwell in your home;  
 May the angels of God protect it,  
 And may the Holy Family of Nazareth be your model  
 and inspiration.*