

Getting Married

at ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY RC CHURCH

59 BURGATE, CANTERBURY, KENT CT1 2HJ

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Website: <http://www.stthomasofcanterbury.com>



WHAT YOU NEED TO DO AT LEAST 6 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING DATE:

1. Make arrangements to meet with the priest and provide these documents

Evidence of baptism and confirmation: Catholics need to provide both baptism & confirmation certificates. All certificates have to be no more than 6 months old, so contact the parish/es where you were baptised and confirmed and ask them to send you a recent copy. Non-Catholic Christians (e.g. Church of England) only need to provide a copy of their baptism certificate. If one party is non-Christian, a dispensation has to be arranged with the Bishop. The priest will discuss this with you if needed.

2. Arrange marriage preparation

You will need to undertake some marriage preparation to ensure you have a good understanding of the meaning of marriage in the Catholic Church. Normally this is through a Marriage Preparation Course taken with other couples over a Friday evening and all day Saturday. A booking form is available from the Parish Office (contact above).

3. Consider the wedding service

Meet with the priest to discuss:

- 3.1. What type of service do you want? - Mass during which the Rite of Marriage is celebrated or the Rite of Marriage with the Liturgy of the Word? The priest will help you to decide what is most appropriate for you.
- 3.2. Readings, Music & Hymns - You need to choose readings from scripture and hymns/music. The priest is very happy to advise or show you what may be suitable for you.
- 3.3. Organist & Flowers - These can be arranged through the Parish or you may want to make your own arrangements. Flowers can only be brought into the church on the morning of the wedding, unless agreed with the Parish Office.
- 3.4. Rehearsal - This will take place a few days before the wedding date. Date must be arranged with the priest. It helps to know what everyone has to do on the day!
- 3.5. Cost of the wedding - see summary of gifts below – please discuss with the priest if necessary

4. Attend to the civil registration

Contact Canterbury Registry Office at least 6 months before your wedding to apply for the civil MARRIAGE SCHEDULE. The Registry Office will issue you with the MARRIAGE SCHEDULE before your wedding date. Give this to the Priest conducting your marriage ceremony a few days before your wedding. The priest cannot register your marriage with the civil authorities without this form.

Who you are

Name of Bride:..... Religion:

Address:.....post code:.....

Contact details:(phone).....(email).....

Name of Groom:..... Religion:

Address:.....post code:.....

contact details: (phone)..... (email).....

Place, Date and Time of wedding:

Suggested Gift Offerings

The Priest: £200

The Church: £200

Cost of organist, flowers, choir or any other requests to be negotiated separately.

Payment Information:

Cheques made payable to: **RCAS Canterbury**
BACS Payment to: **RCAS Canterbury**,
NatWest, Acc. No.54879868, Sort 60-04-27

GIFT AID DECLARATION

TITLE:..... FORENAMES:.....

SURNAME:.....

HOME ADDRESS:.....

.....post code:.....

Signature:..... Date:.....

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference to HMRC.