

Holy Matrimony

in the Parish of Ystrad Mynach and Llanbradach

Thank you for considering our Church as the venue for your wedding. We hope this booklet will help you to decide if you would like a Christian marriage ceremony.

What is Marriage?

Marriage is a gift of God in which two people express their faithful love for one another and their commitment to live together for the whole of their lives. It is given by God to allow a couple to grow together in love and trust and to bring up their children in a way which helps them to become valued citizens in the society in which they live.

What does Holy Matrimony mean?

This is the name given to the Marriage Service itself, which is usually called a Wedding.

Why a Church Wedding?

A wedding in Church is a Christian Marriage, or more simply, a marriage between two baptized people. It is an indication that the couple want to turn to God at an important point in their lives, when they make a commitment which will last for as long as they are both alive. If you are not baptized, the Priest will want to talk to you about your belief in God, but the fact that one or both of you is not baptized (Christened) will not, of itself, prevent the marriage from taking place in Holy Trinity.

What does the Church teach about marriage?

- Married love was created by God. It is part of God's plan for human beings and as such is sacred.
- Marriage is for life. This allows Married couples to feel secure in their love for each other and to extend that love to their children. It also allows two people to learn to live in an unselfish way which reflects God's love.
- Married love is loyal and faithful. The church recognizes that the physical love between a married couple is a natural way for them to express their love for one another and their lifelong commitment to each other.
- Marriage is a public announcement of love. Your vows are made in front of witnesses and before God.
- Marriage is blessed by God. God is the third partner in Christian marriage and the love shown by the couple to each other is a sign of God's love.

What happens at a Church Wedding?

- The priest welcomes everyone and reminds them of the reasons for marriage.
- Bible passages on the theme of love and marriage are read.
- The couple declare their intentions and the congregation is asked if they will support them.
- The couple exchange vows or promises with each other.
- Wedding ring(s) are blessed and exchanged as a sign of the promises which have just been made.
- The priest blesses the married couple as they begin their new life together.
- Prayers are offered for the couple and their future.
- The wedding ceremony may be followed by a celebration of the Holy Eucharist (also known as Nuptial Mass). This is especially appropriate where one of the parties to the Marriage is a confirmed, communicant member of the Church.

How can we arrange our wedding?

To be married in this Parish *one of you* must show that you have a “qualifying connection” with the Parish under the Marriage (Wales) Act 2010. That means that you must show that one of the following requirements applies to you:

1. you live in the parish;
2. you, or one of your parents, have lived in the parish in the past for a period of at least six months;
3. you, or one of your parents have attended Church here at any time in the past for a period of at least six months;
4. you were baptized or confirmed in this parish;
5. your parents or grandparents were married in this parish.

This parish includes the communities of Hengoed, Llanbradach, Tir-y-Berth and Ystrad Mynach; and the Parish Church is Holy Trinity Church on Nelson Road in Ystrad Mynach. The former Church of All Saints’ in Llanbradach is also in the Parish and any baptism, confirmation or wedding or any Church attendance in All Saints’ would also provide a qualifying connection in the above categories. You may have to provide evidence that one of these qualifying connections applies.

Can a divorced person get married in Church?

A divorced person can be married in our Church. You would need to discuss this with the Parish Priest.

Booking your Wedding

You will need to check with the Parish Priest that your preferred date and time is available. We do not permit Weddings to take place during Holy Week (between Palm Sunday and Easter Day), and if your wedding is to take place during Lent, there will be no flowers in Church and some hymns might not be appropriate. The Parish Priest will be able to guide you. Once you have returned the application form fully completed, together with a non-returnable deposit of £100 to secure the agreed date and time of your wedding, your wedding will be booked and we will expect to see you first at the Wedding Preparation Session (see below).

Will there be anything else we have to do?

In order to think carefully about your wedding day and the meaning of the service in Church, you will be expected to come to attend some specific events:

1. The Wedding Preparation Session, in January or February, with the other couples who will be married in the parish during the year. You will be able to meet the Priest who will conduct your wedding, those who are responsible for the flowers in Church and one of our team of musicians who will provide the music on the day. This is a vital part of the preparation and it is very important that you both attend.
2. The Interview with the Parish Priest to confirm details such as hymns and flowers, and make arrangements for banns, fees and any matters which concern you. This will take place about three months before your wedding.
3. Sunday Eucharist: you are encouraged to come to Church whenever you are able, but you will be asked to attend particularly when your banns are read. This will be on three Sundays within three months of your wedding at the main service at 10.30am in Holy Trinity. We encourage you to be present on those Sundays to hear your banns read and to prepare for your marriage by worshipping with the Christian community here.
4. The Rehearsal, which will take place in Church during the week leading up to the wedding.

How can we prepare for our Church Wedding?

One of the best ways to be ready to make your vows in the presence of God on your wedding day is to worship with the Church. Christians believe that worship transforms an individual and moulds him or her in the likeness of our Saviour Jesus Christ. It is our greatest hope to be more like him and to be made ready to enter into his Kingdom. Our main act of worship on Sundays is the Parish Eucharist at 10.30am, but there are other services at 8.30am and 6.0pm. Our Notice Board and Web Site will give more information.

Contacts

The Parish Priest (or Vicar) is Father Steven Kirk 01443-813246

The most effective way of contacting Father Steven is by telephone.

One of our honorary Priests is Father Keith Hemmings 01443-830662

The Parish Office is open Thursday mornings 01443-810628

The Parish Administrator's E-Mail

holytrinity.ystradmynach@btinternet.com

The Web Site will give details of other contacts you may need

www.holytrinityystradmynach.co.uk

Whenever possible, please contact Father Steven for any information.

