



*St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church
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**GETTING
MARRIED**
at St Joseph's
Retford

Who can get married at St Joseph's, Retford?

In order to be married at St Joseph's, you should be living within the parish boundaries or else you need to be regularly worshipping at St Joseph's. If you do not fulfil either of these you will need to speak to your local Parish Priest or Parish Sister in order to obtain **permission** to be married at St Joseph's.

How much notice do I need to give?

Six months is usually required. Marriages are not celebrated during **Lent and Advent**.

What about marriage preparation?

Marriage preparation is necessary since this is probably the most important step you will ever take in your life. A certain amount of paperwork needs to be completed and the priest will discuss with you the essential elements of Christian marriage as outlined in your vows. The **spiritual preparation** for your marriage is important and so it is highly recommended that Mass is attended each Sunday. Your marriage will be composed of many important elements. It is great wisdom to add a shared spiritual and religious element to the list. Invite God into your marriage. Keep in contact with your parish.

Getting married at St Joseph's, Retford

This document contains food for thought. It is intended to help you design a **celebration of your wedding** that will leave you and your guests with lasting memories and blessings. Take some time to read the document.

Keep in mind that **Almighty God** wishes to be with you all through your married life. May the years together be years of blessing during which both of you will blossom and mature to the fullest of your potential. In addition may the words of **our Blessed Lord** continue to give you encouragement: *'I have come that they may have life and have it to the full'*.

The parish of St Joseph's Retford in the Diocese of Hallam sends both of you its **blessing and good wishes** as you prepare for your marriage.

With every good wish

Revd W.G. Bergin

Revd W. G. Bergin

Parish Priest

Conclusion of the Celebration

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with the confidence to the Father in the words our Saviour gave us:

Our Father

The priest now concludes the ceremony. He will add his personal good wishes to the couple, their families and friends. A polite request is usually made to reserve the throwing of confetti for the reception. Confetti usually creates a mess that lingers for ages. We hope this will not cause too much inconvenience to yourselves and to your visitors. All that now remains is for the newly married couple to leave the Church with family and friends while the organ plays appropriate music.



If my future spouse is not a Catholic does this mean we cannot be married in St Joseph's?

The majority of our marriages tend to be of mixed religion. **Mother Church** wishes to bless these marriages with all the richness of her spiritual treasury. It is to be hoped that non-Catholics will feel very welcome at St Joseph's. Their presence enriches our parish community.

What documentation is required?

Both of you will need your **Baptismal certificates** and Roman Catholics will also require a **Letter of Freedom**. These documents can be obtained from the Church where you were baptised.

If a previous marriage has taken place, documents relating to an **Annulment** must be provided.

You will need to go to the Registry Office and obtain two **Marriage Certificates**. Without these the marriage cannot take place. Bring them to St Joseph's as soon as you receive them. The details of these certificates will be placed in the Marriage Registers of St Joseph's Parish.

Will there be costs to be paid?

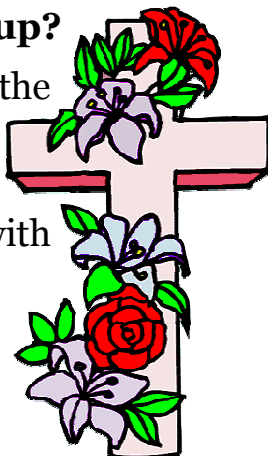
There is a fee of £150 that is to be paid to **St Joseph's Church**. The priest takes nothing for a fee nor for the registration of the wedding. The money you contribute will go to the upkeep of St Joseph's Church. The payment of wedding fees should be concluded on the occasion of the wedding rehearsal. Cheques should be made out to 'St Joseph's Church'. If you are paying tax why not make a **Gift Aid Declaration** so that the parish can reclaim tax back from the Chancellor.

Can we have an organist?

Dorothy Anderson and Christopher Corbett are the **church organists**. They will discuss music with you as well as their fees. The parish priest will provide you with their phone numbers.

Can we have the parish music group?

Joce McGarvey is in charge of the parish **music group**. She will discuss music with you as well as her fee. The parish priest will provide you with her phone number.



Priest: Father, keep them always true to your commandments.
Keep them faithful in marriage and let them be living examples of Christian living.
Give them the strength which comes from the Gospel so that they may be witnesses of Christ to others.

Bless them with children and help them to become good parents.
May they live to see their children's children.

And, after a happy old age,
grant them fullness of life with the saints
in the kingdom of heaven.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.



The Wedding Blessing

After the signing of the registers the priest prays a **solemn blessing** on behalf of the newly married couple. The words contain all possible good wishes and blessings that the church has to offer on such a fine occasion.

Priest: Father, by your power you have made everything out of nothing. In the beginning you created the universe and made mankind in your own likeness. You gave man the constant help of woman so that man and woman should no longer be two but one flesh and you teach us that what you have united may never be divided.

Look with love upon this woman, your daughter, now joined to her husband in marriage. She asks for your blessing.

Give her the grace of love and peace.
May she always follow the example
of the holy women whose praises are
sung in the scriptures.

May her husband put his trust in her
and recognise that she is his equal
and the heir with him to the life of grace.
May he always honour her and love her
as Christ loves his bride the Church.

Flowers

All arrangements for **flowers** should be made through Jane Lindley. Even if you are hoping to use your own florist Jane Lindley should still be contacted. The parish priest will provide you with her phone number.

Can we take videos and photographs?

The **discreet use** of photography is acceptable. However, the parish priest should be consulted and professional photographers should introduce themselves.

What about confetti?

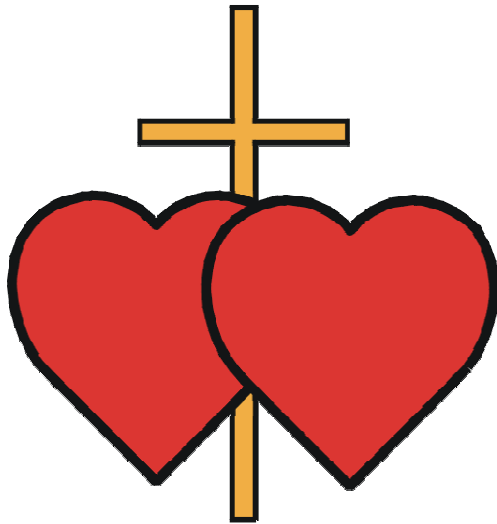
Confetti always creates a mess and hangs around for ages. We respectfully ask that **no confetti** is thrown in the church grounds. The place where you are holding your reception is more appropriate for throwing confetti.

Is there anything guests should be aware of?

All your guests are very welcome at St Joseph's. We hope that they all will have a wonderful day. However, it is important for them to recognise that the Church is a **sacred place** and should be treated with respect and reasonable quiet.



The Marriage ceremony



Sometimes a couple ask to have their wedding celebrated during **Mass**. This is especially appropriate whenever families have strong Catholic ties. It also means that large numbers of the Catholic guests can receive Holy Communion. However an

increasing number of weddings are of Mixed Religion. For example one is Catholic the other may be Church of England. In such cases the decision is often taken to celebrate the marriage ceremony outside of Mass. The **Marriage Ceremony** is simple yet very beautiful and lasts about forty five minutes. There are hymns, prayers, readings, a few words from the priest, the exchange of vows and the signing of the registers. You will need two witnesses and if you wish someone to read the Scriptures for you. A wedding rehearsal will be arranged. The parish priest will help you to plan the ceremony.

The registers are now signed

The newly married couple together with their witnesses now sign the **two marriage registers**. In addition they will also sign **the marriage license**. These documents contain the details taken from the two marriage certificates that have been previously collected from the registry office. At the end of each quarter the two marriage certificates and a copy of the entry in the marriage registers of the parish are sent to the registry office. All of these details are centrally recorded. The couple are now regarded by church and state as husband and wife. In the vast majority of cases the couple will use a single surname.

After the registers have been signed your **photographer** may wish to capture the moment by taking a few photographs.



Blessing and exchange of rings

The priest now blesses the ring(s)

Priest: May the Lord bless + this ring (*these rings*) which you give (*to each other*) as the sign of your love and fidelity.

All: Amen.

The husband places his wife's ring on her finger saying:

Husband: N. (*Christian name only*), take this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

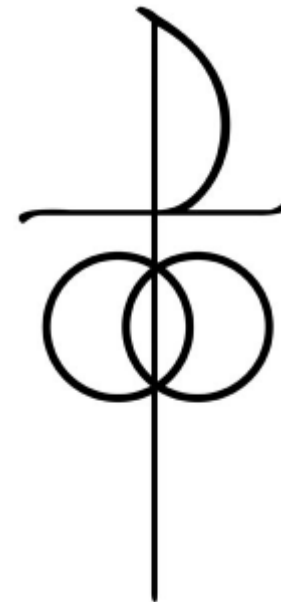
If the husband is to receive a ring, the wife places it on his finger saying:

Wife: N. (*Christian name only*), take this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.



Below is a **checklist** to help you prepare for the celebration of your marriage.

- Baptismal Certificates
- Letter of Freedom for the Catholic
- Marriage Certificates from the Registry Office
- Church Fee
- The organist fee and choice of music
- The parish choir or music group if required
- The flowers
- Two witnesses
- Choice of Readings and a Reader
- A wedding rehearsal



Choosing music for your wedding

You will wish to choose **suitable music** for your wedding. The organists will provide you with lots of suggestions. They will suggest appropriate Bridal Marches that will be suitable for processional and recessional music. They will also help you to choose hymns that you may wish to sing during the ceremony.

Should you wish the parish choir or the parish music group to sing at your wedding they will be pleased to do so. They can provide an assortment of music that will grace the occasion.

No doubt you will want opportunities for your friends and family to sing. It is wise to choose music that your guests will know. Couples often ask about the numbers of hymns they should choose. The parish priest suggests three: one at the beginning, one between the two readings and one at the end. Experience shows that three is a good number. However you may wish to choose **additional hymns** especially if your wedding is being celebrated during Holy Mass.



To the Bride:

Priest: N. N. will you take N. N. here present for your lawful husband according to the rite of our Holy Mother the Church?

Bridegroom: I will.

The Bridegroom then says after the priest, or reads:

Bridegroom: I call upon these persons here present to witness that I N. N. (*full name including surname*), do take thee, N. N. (*full name including surname*), to be my lawful wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part.

Bride: I call upon these persons here present to witness that I N. N. (*full name including surname*), do take thee, N. N. (*full name including surname*), to be my lawful wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part.

Receiving their consent the priest says:

Priest: You have declared your consent before the Church. May the Lord in his goodness strengthen your consent and fill you both with his blessings. What God has joined together let no man put asunder.

All: Amen.

The bridegroom says after the priest, or reads:

Bridegroom: I do solemnly declare that I know not of any lawful impediment why I, N. N. (*full name including surname*) may not be joined in matrimony to N. N. (*Bride's full name including surname*).

Then the bride says after the priest, or reads:

Bride: I do solemnly declare that I know not of any lawful impediment why I, N. N. (*full name including surname*) may not be joined in matrimony to N. N. (*Bridegroom's full name including surname*).

Consent

The priest invites the couple to declare their consent:

Priest: Since it is your intention to enter into marriage declare your consent before God and His Church.

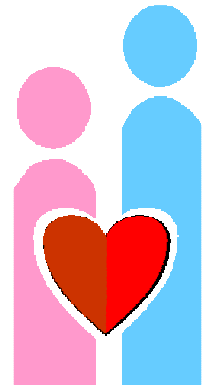
To the Bridegroom:

Priest: N. N. will you take N. N. here present for your lawful wife according to the rite of our Holy Mother the Church?

Bridegroom: I will.

Here is a list of the titles of well known hymns that are often used during weddings. If you decide to use the parish hymn books you will find they are all contained there.

- ◆ At the name of Jesus
- ◆ Praise my soul the King of Heaven
- ◆ I the Lord of sea and sky
- ◆ Morning has broken
- ◆ Hail Queen of Heaven
- ◆ Bind us together
- ◆ All things bright and beautiful
- ◆ Lord of all hopefulness
- ◆ Love divine all loves excelling
- ◆ Give me joy in my heart
- ◆ Faith of our fathers
- ◆ Holy God we praise thy name
- ◆ Lord Jesus Christ
- ◆ Peace perfect peace
- ◆ The Lord is my shepherd
- ◆ Do not be afraid
- ◆ I watch the sunrise
- ◆ Make me a channel of your peace



These are suggestions to help you. Should you have your own favourite hymns then feel free to choose them. It is not appropriate to sing **secular music** in church. Therefore the choice of music to be sung should be of a **sacred nature**.

Readings for Marriage

Two readings are required for your marriage. The **first reading** may be read by a reader of your choice. The text can be taken from either the Old Testament or the New Testament. The **second reading** is always taken from one of the Gospels. This is always read by the priest. Between each of the readings you might wish to sing one of your favourite

It is worth remembering that the choice of readings should be taken from the Sacred Scriptures. It is **not appropriate** in a Catholic Church to choose poetry, extracts from the holy writings of other religions or from popular literature. Here is a selection of sacred readings from the Bible. Read them through and then make your choices. The parish priest will always give you assistance if necessary.



The following questions are put only once, but the Bride and the Bridegroom answer separately.

Priest: N and N (*Christian names only*) I shall now ask you if you freely undertake the obligations of marriage and to state that there is no legal impediment to your marriage.

Are you ready freely and without reservation to give yourselves to each other in marriage?

The Bridegroom answers first and then the Bride:

Bridegroom: I am.

Bride: I am.

Priest: Are you ready to love and honour each other as man and wife for the rest of your lives?

Bridegroom: I am.

Bride: I am.

The following question may be omitted if, for example, the couple is advanced in years.

Priest: Are you ready to accept children lovingly from God and bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church?

Bridegroom: I am.

Bride: I am.

The rite of marriage



The exchange of marriage vows is the central part of the wedding ceremony. The instruction given to you by the priest underpins these vows. Marriage vows are made publicly. **Two witnesses** are there to hear you making the vows. They represent the State. The priest is also a witness and represents the Church. During the exchange of vows the couple and their witnesses stand together. Here are the marriage vows you will make.

Priest: N and N (*Christian names only*) you have come together in this Church so that the Lord may seal and strengthen your love in the presence of the Church's minister and this community. Christ abundantly blesses this love. He has already consecrated you in baptism and now he enriches and strengthens you by a special Sacrament so that you may assume the duties of marriage in mutual and lasting fidelity. And so, in the presence of the Church I ask you to state your intentions.

Reading Number One

A reading from the Book of Genesis

God said, "Let us make man in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves, and let them be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven, the cattle, all the wild beasts and all the reptiles that crawl upon the earth."

God created man in the image of Himself in the image of God He created him male and female He created them.

God blessed them saying to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and conquer it. Be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven and all living animals on the earth."

God saw all that He had made and indeed it was very good.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Reading Number Two

A reading from the Book of Genesis

The Lord said, “It is not good that man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.” So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These He brought to the man to see what he would call them. Each was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept He took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib He had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed:

“This at last is bone from my bones
and flesh from my flesh.
This is to be called woman
for this was taken from man.”

This is why man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife and they become one body.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Gospel Reading Number Three

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said, “From the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two therefore but one body. So then what God has united man must not divide.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Reading Number Four

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

A lawyer, to disconcert Jesus, put a question, “Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?” Jesus said, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law and the Prophets also.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Reading Number Two

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:
“As the Father has loved me
so I have loved you.
Remain in my love.
If you keep my commandments
you will remain in my love
just as I have kept my Father’s commandments
and remain in His love.
I have told you this
so that my own joy may be in you
and your joy be complete.
This is my commandment:
love one another
as I have loved you.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Reading Number Three

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare His own Son but gave him up to benefit us all we may be certain after such a gift that He will not refuse anything He can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us he rose from the dead and there at God’s right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Nothing therefore can come between us and the love of Christ even if we are troubled or worried or being persecuted or lacking food or clothes or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life no angel no prince nothing that exists nothing still to come not any power or height or depth nor any created thing can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Reading Number Four

A reading from the first letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Be anxious for the higher gifts and I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them.

If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels but speak without love I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. If I have the gift of prophecy understanding all the mysteries there are, and knowing everything, and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all. If I give away all I possess, piece by piece, and if I even let them take my body to burn it, but am without love, it will do me no good whatever.

Love is always patient and kind. It is never jealous. Love is never boastful or conceited. It is never rude or selfish. It does not take offence and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth. It is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes. Love does not come to an end.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Gospel Reading Number One

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Seeing the crowds Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

“How happy are the poor in spirit:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy are the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage.
Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.
Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.
Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

“Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad. For your reward will be great in heaven.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.