



The Church of Our Lady & the English Martyrs Cambridge

PARISH POLICY FOR THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY MATRIMONY

The Celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony is one of the seven sacraments Catholics believe are channels of God's grace. The ceremony consists of biblical readings, the exchange of vows, the exchange of rings, the Prayer of the Faithful, the nuptial blessing, prayers and usually celebrated within the context of the Church's greatest gift, the Holy Mass.

One of the important features of a good liturgy is appropriate music. The Roman Catholic wedding rite is rich in tradition and liturgy. Since a wedding is primarily an offering of worship and praise to God, who calls a man and a woman together in marriage, great care should go into planning the ceremony itself. The Church offers this sacred opportunity to join with family and friends in dedicating the couple's marriage to God, the author of all love.

Every wedding is unique. It will provide a series of images and memories that will give the couple a wealth of memories to recount and reflect upon. Couples will want to carefully prepare the Liturgy with the celebrant and the Director of Music, considering such elements as Scripture (Bible) readings and music.

It is our POLICY, without exception that:

- if you are inviting a priest from outside England and Wales to celebrate your marriage that he first of all get clearance from the Diocese of East Anglia. His Bishop or Provincial Superior will need to contact the Vicar General for this Diocese and apply for the Consent Form – Suitability for Ministry which will then need to be completed by the Bishop of Provincial Superior and returned to the Vicar General. When returned it will then be passed on to the Chancellor of the Diocese who will issue the appropriate faculties. PLEASE BEAR IN MIND that this process can take some time and it is MANDATORY that it be done. For a priest to show-up from outside England and Wales without the appropriate faculty will result in him being refused to function as a priest within this Diocese during his stay;
- visiting priests to our parish, should observe all these norms as directed by the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales and laid down in the Introduction to 'The Order of Celebrating Matrimony.' (2013)
- the structure, texts and how the liturgy is to be celebrated according to the Roman Missal in either the Ordinary or the Extraordinary Form;

- the reading(s) in the Liturgy of the Word should be taken from scripture as set out in Volume III of the Lectionary and cannot be replaced by another text;
- any music played or sung should be taken from the Church's long and living tradition of music. In other words, texts that are said or sung must 'express the faith of the Church' and bring all who attend the wedding into 'full, conscious and active participation in the liturgy.'

What is not permitted are the following:

- a favorite poem or piece of secular music (popular love songs, operatic arias);
- the use of video and/or recording equipment without an appropriate license and permission from the Rector
- the printing of service sheets with liturgical texts or hymns without requesting permission from the copyrighters.

The Rt Revd Mgr Eugène Canon Harkness
Chancellor of East Anglia and Rector of Our Lady and The English Martyrs, Cambridge

Nigel Kerry
Director of Music

1 May, 2016