

CHURCH OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY

Fr. John Cummins PP, Ballinakill Rd., Abbeyleix, Co. Laois. 057 8731181. abbeyleixparish@eircom.net

2020

REQUIREMENTS FOR MARRIAGE

- Permission to marry outside your parish of residence should be clarified before booking our church for your marriage ceremony.
- Marriage papers to be completed by a priest of the parish of both bride and groom to include
 - Pre-Nuptial Enquiry Form
 - Baptismal certificates from your place of baptism issued within six months of your marriage
 - Confirmation certificates
 - Letters of freedom / dispensation(s) from impediments if necessary
 - Pre-Marriage Course Certificate
- Completed documents should be forwarded here at least **six weeks** before the date of marriage.
- You have ultimate responsibility for all arrangements regarding the civil aspect of your marriage. By law you are required to meet with any civil registrar of marriage in person to give notice of your intention to marry. This meeting must take place at least **three months** before the wedding in order to comply with the civil requirements. You will need to have confirmation that the church is available prior to this meeting. You will also need to know the name of the priest who will solemnise (officiate at) your marriage.

N.B. The acceptance of a booking for the Church is not an acknowledgement of your freedom to marry. This is established by the priest of your own parish on completion of the Pre-Nuptial Enquiry Form. A marriage may only take place when freedom to marry is confirmed and all legal requirements have been fulfilled.

OTHER INFORMATION

- It is your responsibility to arrange the following:
 - **Priest:** As the priest of this parish is unavailable for weddings of non-parishioners it will be necessary for you to have arranged with a priest to officiate at your marriage.
 - **Wedding Ceremony:** Marriage is a sacrament and must therefore be Christian in tone and in text. Readings and music should be appropriate. Secular music and readings should not be used. The officiating priest will advise you on this.
 - **Music:** Use musician(s) and/or singer(s) that will enhance your wedding with appropriate sacred music. The church has an excellent pipe organ.
 - **Flowers:** These should be appropriately placed. Flowers\greenery are not permitted on the altar rails. It is expected that at least two flower arrangements are left in the sanctuary to adorn the altar after your wedding. **Florists should be advised of this.**
 - **Candles:** Safety is a priority. Candles may not be placed on the floor or on the altar rails.
 - **Photographer/Video Recorder:** These should be discreet and not interrupt or intrude on the Marriage Ceremony
 - **Rehearsal:** As the church is closed at 6pm daily the rehearsal should be completed by this time. It should be arranged with the officiating priest as it is not possible for the priest of this parish to facilitate a rehearsal.
- The use of confetti, rice, petals etc. or the serving of alcohol is not permitted inside the church or in the church grounds.
- The fee for facilitating your wedding in this church, including the services of our Sacristan on the day, is €400 and **should be paid/attached to our Pre Marriage Booking Form on forwarding it back.** **Please attach a note if it has been paid via Bank Transfer (Reference: Names & Date of Wedding)** (*cheques made payable to 'Abbeyleix Parish'*).

In facilitating your wedding in our parish church it is reasonable to expect that you respect it as you would your own. It is to be understood that our church is not being 'rented out' or that you are free to use it as you wish. **Your booking implies your acceptance of these conditions.**

Please complete the enclosed/attached 'PRELIMINARY BOOKING FORM' and return it to Fr. Cummins at the above address.