

### **MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE**

Please be aware that churches are no longer allowed to issue marriage certificates. You have to apply to Oxfordshire County Council for a copy of your marriage certificate, at a cost of £11; this can only be done approximately a month after your wedding date. You can apply online by using the following link:

<https://service.oxfordshire.gov.uk/registrationcertificate>

### **YOUR RECEPTION**

The Dupuis Centre is available as a venue for your wedding reception if you wish. A large function room can be booked. The parish centre offers a low-cost, but very pleasant environment for your reception.

Hopefully, the information contained in this leaflet clarifies a few points for you. The priest will guide you through the process of preparation, so please do not worry. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us, and we will try and help you in any way we can.

With all good wishes,

God bless,

Fr John Peyton and Fr Ryan Service

### **CHECKLIST**

This is the information that is required to be able to complete your wedding documents:

- Baptism & Confirmation Certificates (where applicable)
- Schedule from Register Office

For more information please contact:

01295 262073 or email: [office@banburycatholicchurches.org.uk](mailto:office@banburycatholicchurches.org.uk)

<http://www.banburycatholicchurches.org.uk>

*Updated August 2021*

# The Catholic Parishes of **St John the Evangelist** & **St Joseph the Worker,** Banbury



## Getting Married in Banbury Catholic Parishes

The priests and parishioners of St John's and St Joseph's parishes, Banbury, are delighted that you wish to celebrate your marriage in one of our churches, and we will give you all the help you will need to ensure that you are fully prepared for the celebration. Preparing for marriage is a wonderful opportunity to get to know one another even better and also to renew an understanding of the meaning of life within a Christian context. This leaflet will answer some of the questions you may have.

#### **BANBURY CATHOLIC PARISH.**

**St John the Evangelist** is a beautiful and historic church in the centre of town, and has been enhanced by a comprehensive programme of internal refurbishment. It can seat a congregation of up to approximately 300.

**St Joseph the Worker** church was built in 1968, originally as a Mass centre for the parish of St John's.

**St Thomas of Canterbury** is in the village of Wroxton. Please visit our parish website to find out more about the churches.

#### **HOW DO WE PREPARE TO GET MARRIED?**

Please ensure that you contact the parish in good time before your proposed wedding day in order to reserve the date and to allow time for us to take you through the necessary preparation.

Normally, couples who are legally free to marry are able to get married in the Catholic Church, as long as at least one of you is a baptised Catholic, and neither of you has previously been married. If this is not the case, please speak to the priest who will advise you what possibilities may exist.

After your initial contact, you will have a meeting with either Fr John or Fr Ryan, who will explain the procedure that follows to help you to prepare for your marriage. Over the coming months you will have a number of meetings with the priest, to complete all the necessary church and legal formalities, and also so that he can get to know you. As far as possible, we try to ensure that you will be dealing with the same priest throughout the process, and it will be he who then conducts your wedding service.

You will also be asked to attend a marriage preparation day here in the parish. This is to ensure that you understand and fully accept the Catholic Church's understanding of marriage and the nature of the commitment that you will be making when you exchange your vows. It will also help you to think about some of the practical realities of the life you will be sharing once you are married.

The course is led by married couples from the parish, and will usually be with other engaged couples.

If you do not normally attend Sunday Mass at the moment, we would like to suggest that you think about beginning to come to Mass. As well as being a highly enjoyable family and social occasion, a wedding in Church has the special aspect of making your commitment to one another in the presence of God, and so it is an important spiritual moment.

#### **GIVING NOTICE OF MARRIAGE**

It is essential that you give notice of your marriage in your local registration district. If you and your partner live in different areas, you will each need to give notice in your own registration district. For Banbury residents, the council office is in Bodicote; the telephone number is 0845 129 5900. A nationally-set, non-refundable fee of £35 is payable for each notice of marriage. Once you have received the schedule, please bring it to the parish office. Without this document, the marriage cannot take place.

#### **HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO GET MARRIED?**

Although some families spend a great deal of money, a wedding does not have to be expensive. The suggested minimum donation is currently £250. This includes the use of the church, all the preliminary meetings and preparation, as well as the Marriage Preparation Day.

#### **HOW DO WE ORGANISE THE FLOWERS FOR THE WEDDING?**

For most of the year, there are flowers in church each weekend. If, however, you would like a specific display, with a particular colour scheme, you can arrange this yourself with a florist; alternatively, speak to the priest if you would like make a small donation to enhance the flowers that are normally in church. Please let us know if you intend to take your own flowers away after the ceremony, so that we can ensure we still have flowers in church for our weekend Masses.

#### **WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT MUSIC ON THE DAY?**

You will probably require an organist to play at your wedding. The parish has a number of organists available; contact the parish office or speak to the priest if you would like to book an organist; the organist will then let you know their fee.