St Peter in Chains Parish

MARRIAGE PREPARATION PACK

Dear Couple!

So you've decided to get married in a Catholic Church. Congratulations on the sacramental journey you are about to begin. Indeed, the Ceremony you are planning is more than just an event, it is a Sacrament, a sign of your union together founded upon the love of Christ. It is not a sign like a stop sign that says one thing plainly and simply. Rather it is a sign to the world of the covenantal (sacred and permanent) relationship into which God has called the two of you. Because your marriage is that kind of sign, it will have an effect on everything about you. Likewise, it will have varying effects on everyone you know. In short, you do not marry in private.

The following **Marriage Timeline Planner** will ensure that details and requirements for marriage in the Church will not become overwhelming. It is intended to help make your wedding planning process as stress-free as possible! Know that we in the Church are praying for you throughout this time of preparation. We hope that these practical suggestions from experience will be a help in planning your special day. We will support you in any way we can!

Looking forward to meeting you soon!

God bless!

Fr Duncan

Father Duncan McVicar
Parish Priest

Marriage Timeline Planner

♥ By <u>12 </u>months before the anticipated wedding date

Meet with the Parish Priest, Father Duncan, to initiate the marriage preparation process and set the date of the wedding - 'phone 01294 464063 or email: fr.duncan@schoenstatt.org.uk

Please don't book a Reception venue without checking that the date and time is suitable for the Church first.

Before a wedding date can be set, the couple should meet with the priest to determine that nothing is preventing the couple from marriage in the Catholic Church.

Fill in the Pre-Nuptial Enquiry Form with the priest. Bring along the Baptismal Certificates of the Bride and Groom from your own Churches of Baptism. Certificates should not be more than six months old. In other words, it has to be a new Certificate, not the original one.

If you have just moved into the Parish, i.e. in the last couple of years, it is better to get a "Letter of Freedom" from your previous Parish Priest from your last address. Just ask him for a "Letter of Freedom", tell him your address and the years that you lived there. Then, bring this with you.

The priest will give you a booklet with suggested Readings from the Bible for the Wedding, suggested Bidding Prayers and a booklet outlining the Marriage Service.

Pray together for God's blessings as you prepare for marriage.

♥ By <u>9 </u>months before the wedding date

Read about the meaning of Marriage by downloading the text called "Made for each other" on the Parish Website: www.stpeterinchains.net

Register for your Marriage Preparation Course. St Peter in Chains hopes soon to organise a Course with the rest of the North Ayrshire Deanery.

If you are sending special invitations to family and friends, why don't you include a short prayer for your wedding day. Guests at your wedding are then invited to pray for you and your intentions. What a beautiful gift!

♥ By <u>6</u> months before the wedding date

Complete the Marriage Preparation Course . Be sure to obtain your Certificate of attendance and give this to the priest at the next meeting with him.

If you would like to book an organist or order special flowers for the ceremony, then confirm this with the priest.

You might wish to order a special wedding candle, which will be lit during the Ceremony. The Parish Office has the brochure and contact details. Please don't leave it too late!

This is a great time to pray a rosary together for your future marriage and family. If you don't have a Rosary, you can get one at the Parish Shop at the back of Church. Please have a look at "How to pray the Rosary" on our Parish Website.

♥ By <u>3</u> months before the wedding date

Meet with the priest again to plan the Wedding Ceremony. You need to think about and confirm:

• Nuptial Mass or Wedding Ceremony
• Which Readings from the Bible and Bidding Prayers
• Choice of music
• Flowers if needed
• Wedding Candle
• Names and addresses of witnesses
• Names and addresses of Best Man and Chief Bridesmaid
• Names of Bridesmaids or Page Boys, etc.
• Names of Readers
• Arrange date and time for rehearsal

Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (if Catholic). At St Peter in Chains there is usually always the opportunity for Confession on Saturdays, between 4.45pm and 5.15pm.

♥ By <u>1</u> week before the wedding date - Rehearsal in Church

A rehearsal should take place in Church about one week before the wedding date.

We will confirm all the details of the Ceremony then.

We recommend that all the fees for the wedding should be arranged at the rehearsal: For example: the organist - £50.

There is no fee for a Wedding at St Peter in Chains. However, the Parish would be grateful for a donation if possible. The amount of the donation is up to your generosity and should be compared to the other expenses you have for the wedding.

If you pay tax, then using the special Parish Donation Envelopes brings an extra 22% to the Parish from your donation. All you have to do is write your name and address on the special envelope. Please ask the priest for one. Thank you for your support!

♥ Prayer for the Wedding

O God,
who in creating the human race
willed that man and wife should be one,
join, we pray, in a bond of inseparable love
these your servants who are to be united
in the covenant of Marriage,
so that, as you make their love fruitful,
they may become, by your grace,
witnesses to charity itself.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

We wish you God's Blessing in the preparation for your special day and we also wish you a "love for a lifetime"!