

Conversation and Mass come first

Your pathway does not begin with a website. It begins with a personal conversation. Sunday Mass and parish life then give the preparation its ordinary setting. The website simply keeps your parish resources together in one place.

YOU WILL BE ACCOMPANIED

You will work through the preparation principally as a couple. A parish mentor may accompany you where helpful, while the priest remains responsible for freedom to marry, canonical matters, pastoral questions and preparation of the wedding rite. Bring real differences or concerns into the conversation rather than simply trying to finish material.

YOUR TEACHING RESOURCE: BOOK + PARISH APP

Your printed foundation is Preparing for Our Marriage. The Marriage app supports the teaching and couple conversation. Work through it together, pause when a question exposes a real difference, and bring anything serious or unclear to the priest rather than rushing to complete the material.

Find everything for your pathway

Your parish page brings together the pathway information, preparation material and the app for this sacrament.

cathparishmje.co.uk/marriage/

Mass times: cathparishmje.co.uk/mass-times/

CONTACT THE PARISH

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MARRIAGE

A simple parish guide for engaged couples

THIS PATHWAY IS FOR YOU IF...

This pathway is for you as a couple if you are asking to marry in the Catholic Church. The priest will establish freedom to marry and any other requirements with you personally.

What are you asking for?

You are asking for much more than a church wedding. You are asking to enter a lifelong covenant before God and the Church: freely entered, faithful, permanent and open to the gift of children. Between two baptised persons, a valid marriage is a sacrament.

Your wedding is one day. Your marriage is for life.

At the heart of marriage is free consent: a man and woman give and receive one another for life. The sacrament gives grace for faithful love, forgiveness, perseverance, family life, openness to children and helping one another grow in holiness.

THE PARISH PRINCIPLE

The first step is a conversation. Sacramental preparation then grows within Sunday Mass and parish life. The preparation book and parish app help with the teaching; they do not replace personal accompaniment.

WHAT THIS MEANS IN PRACTICE

The vows express a real lifelong intention: freedom, fidelity, permanence and openness to children. Marriage preparation therefore asks the couple to understand what they are promising and to have honest conversations before, rather than after, the wedding.

How the pathway works

1. CONVERSATION

Begin with the priest before firm arrangements are made. Talk openly about your circumstances, faith, proposed marriage and anything that may affect freedom to marry.

2. SUNDAY MASS

For the Catholic party, Sunday Mass remains the heart of Catholic life and the spiritual setting of marriage preparation. A non-Catholic fiancé or fiancée is warmly welcome to come and pray with the parish.

3. BOOK + APP

Use Preparing for Our Marriage together as a couple. The parish app supports the teaching and prompts honest conversation about the life you are promising to live.

4. CANONICAL & LITURGICAL PREPARATION

Complete the Church's formal enquiry, documents, permissions or dispensations where needed, and prepare the wedding liturgy with the priest.

What preparation includes

- God's plan for marriage, covenant, unity, permanence and openness to life
- freedom, consent, sacramentality and grace
- faith, prayer, forgiveness, communication, intimacy, children, money and family life
- the wedding rite, vows, canonical enquiry and practical preparation

The sacrament and the life that follows

Consent and freedom

The priest does not manufacture the marriage for the couple. The man and woman themselves freely give and receive one another. Honesty matters because neither family pressure, a booking, pregnancy nor embarrassment can supply genuine marital consent.

Preparation for marriage, not just a wedding

Good preparation includes the faith and sacrament, but also the ordinary realities of life together: conflict and forgiveness, money and work, children, intimacy, families, responsibilities, safety and the habits that protect fidelity.

After the wedding

The grace of Matrimony is for a lifetime. A Christian marriage is normally sustained by prayer, Sunday Mass, forgiveness, sacramental life, truthful communication, family faith and asking for help early when difficulties arise.

The wedding rite

The liturgy includes the Word of God, the questions before consent, the exchange and reception of consent, rings, intercessions and the nuptial blessing. When Marriage is celebrated within Mass, the Eucharistic liturgy follows. The exchange of consent is the heart of the celebration.

LIFE AFTERWARDS

The wedding is the beginning of the marriage. The grace of Matrimony is meant to be lived in ordinary fidelity, forgiveness, family life, prayer, Sunday Mass and perseverance for the whole of married life.