

Getting Married in Moyraverty Parish

Wedding Guidelines

1. Weddings should be booked during the priests' office hours at the Parish Office, 10 Tullygally Road, Craigavon at least three months before the marriage. Only two weddings are allowed on any one-day (one in St John's, Lylo and one in St Anthony's). While we understand that you may wish to nominate a priest of your choice to celebrate your wedding, the shortage of priests and holidays may mean that another priest in the parish is assigned to the ceremony.
2. Engagement is a special time to reflect on the meaning of marriage and to prepare for the celebration of the sacrament. You have decided to get married in the Catholic Church and we invite you (if you aren't already) to become active members of our parish community. The website www.gettingmarried.ie in its 'Faith and Knowledge' section contains useful articles and lists other resources that you will find helpful. You should also register for a pre-marriage course as soon as you book your wedding. This can be done by contacting *Accord* at either 028 302 6377 or 028 38 334781. The pre-marriage course is a reflective day away from the hustle and bustle of wedding preparations. More information about *Accord* (Catholic Marriage Care Services) and pre-marriage courses can be found at www.accord.ie.
3. Pre-nuptial enquiry forms need to be completed three months before the wedding. A priest fills these in. When both partners are Catholic, a priest in the parish where each partner lives should complete these papers. In Moyraverty pre-marriage papers are completed during priests' office hours. If a partner is non-Catholic the pre-nuptial papers should be completed in the parish of the Catholic party. If you were baptised and/or confirmed outside of the parish where you are getting your papers completed, you should obtain a certificate of baptism and/or confirmation from the parish where you celebrated these sacraments. From the parish of baptism you should also receive a 'letter of freedom' (a note stating that you were not married before). The certificates need to be dated within six months of the wedding. If you are getting married abroad, you should arrange to have pre-marriage forms completed six months before the wedding; you will also need the name and address of the priest officiating at your wedding, and the name and address of the bishop of the diocese where the wedding is to take place. With weddings abroad you should also contact the appropriate embassy or consulate to ensure any necessary paperwork is completed.
4. You will also need to contact the Registrar's Office at Craigavon Borough Council at least 6 weeks before your wedding (10 weeks if you were married before). The address and phone number of the Registrar's Office are: Civic Centre, Lakeview Road, Craigavon, 028 38 312400. The office will issue you with Marriage Notice Forms which need the signature of the Officiant (priest) celebrating your wedding; you will also need an original long birth certificate and photographic identification. The Registrar will advise you when to collect a Marriage Schedule from the Registrar's Office; this must be delivered to the

Officiant a few days before the wedding, If is your responsibility to return the completed Schedule to the Registrar within 3 days of the wedding taking place.

5. The priest celebrating your wedding will discuss with you the form of liturgy to be celebrated. A wedding Mass and Wedding Service are both available. More information about the liturgy and about putting together a wedding booklet can be found at www.gettingmarried.ie.
6. Suitable music, i.e. church music, which is appropriate to the occasion, must be used. The priest will advise you in this regard. It is the responsibility of couples to arrange singers, organist, and musicians.
7. In the past it was customary to leave flowers in the church after the wedding. Nowadays most couples bring these flowers to the reception. It would be appreciated if one arrangement could be left in the church. Arrangements for florists to have access to the church should be made through the Parish Office (028 38 343013).
8. A rehearsal can be arranged with the priest celebrating your wedding. This is usually held a few days before the wedding. The wedding party, readers, and others involved in the ceremony, should try to attend if they are available. However, the rehearsal is predominantly designed to make the Bride and Groom familiar with the ceremony and hence more relaxed on their big day.
9. Respect for the church and its environment should be upheld at all times. Please inform your guests that their best behaviour is required during the wedding ceremony. Confetti is not permitted in St Anthony's or St John's or in the church grounds. Photographs or video recordings should not be taken in the sanctuary.
10. Weddings have become very expensive in recent times. Thankfully the church service has always been kept within reason. As well as the stipend for the priest, it is customary to tip the altar servers and the sacristan. The sacristan has a very important, and at times unseen, role in the making of a successful day. As well as cleaning the church, the sacristan will liaise with florists and musicians and be available to open the church for rehearsals and on the day of the wedding. Some churches require a donation for the use of the church; we do not. However, any voluntary donations will contribute to the upkeep of our parish churches.
11. Marriage is a sacrament and your wedding day is one of the most important and sacred days of your life. We wish you God's blessing. We ask God to bless you in your preparation for, and your celebration of, your marriage.

A Prayer for Engaged Couples

O Lord, we thank you for the wonderful gift of our love which you have generously granted us and which allows us to build a true communion of persons

between us. May we remain ever open to you, the Source of all love. Help us to continue to love each other and accept each other unconditionally, as we get to know each other better.

Make us generous in giving and humble in receiving. Enable us to communicate to one another all our joys, sufferings, and desires and all our hopes, sorrows, and difficulties.

May we imitate your Son in forgetting self and living for each other so that we may have truly one spirit, and be witnesses to your love in the world.

Be with us as we prepare for marriage, and bless our families and friends who have helped form us into the people we are today.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.