

**St Mary of Furness Catholic Church,
Ulverston
&
Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church,
Dalton-in-Furness**



MARRIAGE INFORMATION LEAFLET (2022)

Contact Address:

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Fees - The Catholic Church does not have set charges for the use of the church or for the marriage service. There is however a compulsory Civil Marriage Fee (currently **£86**), and it is also customary to give the priest who conducts the service a Minister's Offering. When considering what you might like to give, we simply ask that you take into account what you are spending on other items such as the cake, cars, photographer etc. A suggested offering may be **£150**. The Organist fee is separate and is normally around **£70**.

All donations should be placed in envelopes and these should be passed to the priest at the wedding practice, or at least before the actual service.

After the Service – Please make sure that someone is appointed to clear up and remove any booklets or bench decorations after the wedding service.

Directions to the Church – St Marys is on Victoria Road, Ulverston, LA12 0BY. Our Lady's, Dalton, is on Ulverston Road, LA15 8EF. Please note that there are several St Mary's churches in the area around Ulverston and Barrow – please ensure your guests turn up at the right place. Parking is available on-site and in nearby streets; however there are some Saturday parking restrictions in Ulverston (but not in Dalton).

Punctuality - You and your guests are asked to be in good time for the Wedding. The Bride is especially asked to be prompt, preferably five minutes early so that photographs can be taken. Lateness may affect other services on the day and also any other appointments for the organist, sacristan, etc.

Registration – for civil registration, the bride, groom and witnesses sign the marriage schedule. For church registration there are no signatures required; however the priest will require the names and addresses of your two witnesses. The witnesses for both church and civil registration are normally the Best Man and Main Bridesmaid – however there is no requirement for this to be the case.

Church Records - A permanent record of your marriage will be made in church registers. Your pre-marriage information will also be retained in a confidential file (which is not available to the general public).

Congratulations on your proposed marriage. We hope that we can help make your wedding day special and your married life joyful. This leaflet provides some basic information about the preparations for your marriage and the wedding ceremony itself. You are welcome to ask the priest any questions about your wedding and the process surrounding it; however please note that you need to speak to the registrar's office about civil aspects of the marriage.

CIVIL REQUIREMENTS:

To be married at church, you need to inform the Civil Registrar. This should be done several months before the proposed date of marriage, but can be done up to 12 months before. It is necessary to make an appointment with the Registrar before you both attend the office.

At the Register Office you will be issued with a Marriage Schedule. This must be handed to the priest - without it the marriage cannot take place.

Please note that if neither party has residency in Cumbria then special rules apply before the Marriage Schedule can be issued. Please talk to the Registrar well in advance as some days' residency may be required.

If you are thinking of getting married in a Catholic church outside of England and Wales, then local legal requirements apply and therefore complications can arise. No priest can conduct a ceremony without all legal formalities being completed - it is your responsibility to ensure everything is in order.

CHURCH REQUIREMENTS:

The Catholic Church can only marry those who are free do so in Church Canon Law. It is very important to check that a priest can perform a Catholic marriage service for you before any contractual obligations with venues etc. are entered into. If there are any complicating factors (e.g. a previous marriage/partnership, dependent children from a previous relationship, please tell the priest from the outset).

The Catholic party will need a recent up-to-date copy of their Baptismal Certificate and a Letter of Freedom from their baptismal parish. These may be obtained by writing to the parish of baptism, stating date of birth and approximate date of baptism, and should include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

A non-Catholic party, if baptised, should also obtain proof of baptism from the church where it took place, plus a letter from family members stating you are free to marry.

The couple proposing to marry are required to see the priest for at least four discussions centred on Christian Marriage and Church requirements. Practical arrangements can also be made during these booked appointments.

Marriage preparation and paperwork is undertaken in the parish where a Catholic partner has residence. If you are not from this parish, you need to speak with your own priest at an early stage, as his permission is required. He is also responsible for completing the paperwork that the Catholic Church requires, and also for arranging for you to attend any preparatory sessions.

WEDDING PRACTICALITIES

Types of Wedding Service - (1) Nuptial Mass: This is a traditional Mass which includes the Rite of Marriage and lasts about an hour.
(2) Wedding Service: This is a service of prayers and readings and includes the Rite of Marriage but not Holy Communion. It lasts about forty minutes. If you are not regularly attending church, or if many of your guests are not Catholic, you might consider the latter type of service more appropriate.

Readings – You will be encouraged and guided to pick your own scripture readings and hymns if you wish. Note that poems etc. cannot replace the scripture readings. However, if you feel that you wish to incorporate a poem or special text (which is suitable for use in church) please consult the priest. Suggested church readings can be found at: <http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/Marriage/Lectonary.shtml>

Photographs and Video Recordings – Please tell your photographer that photographs may be taken in church during the service provided he/she is not obtrusive. The same goes for video recordings. The photographer should speak to the priest before the service. In any event, he/she must not be allowed to delay the start of the service. Normally, there is no extra charge for photographing or videoing the service, though copyright rules should be observed.

Music – Local organists will be happy to provide music at the service if they are available. The organist will advise you of their professional fee. Chosen music should be appropriate for a church setting. Copyright and public performance rules should be observed – this includes any printed Order of Service. Any hymns should be carefully chosen, taking congregational involvement into account.

Guests - Toilets are available on each site. Please instruct your guests not to throw confetti in church or the church porch. Guests will be asked to switch-off their phones before the start of the service.

Order of Service – This is optional; however you are responsible for producing and printing it. A draft should always be sent to the priest so that he can confirm that the information is correct or make suggestions before they are printed.

Flowers – These can be arranged with your own choice of florist. If you are using a florist please consult with the church beforehand. You can choose either to leave your flowers in church so that others may enjoy them, or remove them as you wish after the service. Note that during Lent and Advent, the church does not use flowers, except for weddings.

Diocesan Website – There is information on our diocesan website about marriage and possible music choices (use drop-down tab 'The Catholic Faith'). <http://www.lancasterdiocese.org.uk>