



Congratulations

**A Leaflet
to help you prepare for your wedding
in Dromore Cathedral**

Congratulations

It is good to hear that a couple have decided to get married. I hope your plans go well, and that I can help you make good decisions about starting your life together. This little leaflet is to help you prepare for that special day in your lives - the day of your Wedding in Dromore Cathedral.

It is important to arrange the practical details of the day well in advance, so the information in this leaflet is mainly concerned with the ceremony. I hope to be able to have a chat with you early in your preparations about marriage itself.

Choosing whom you will marry is second only in importance in life to choosing to love God and to follow Christ. I want to help you be sure you are making good choices. The Wedding Service in Church is an opportunity: to thank those who have helped you get this far in life, to dedicate yourselves to each other in love, and to submit your lives to God for the future: a whole new start, with Christ in your hearts and home.

Hoping you have a beautiful wedding and wonderful marriage,

Your friend and rector,

Stephen Lowry

The Rectory
28 Church Street, Dromore, BT25 1AA

Cathedral Office
30 Church Street, Dromore BT25 1AA

First things first

THE DATE:

It is helpful to have an approximate DATE & TIME of service in mind when you first contact me. Speak to me before confirming any other arrangements.

THE OFFICIANT:

With current marriage procedures, you need to have the signature of the person conducting your wedding service before you can send in your Marriage Notice Application Form. If you wish someone other than myself to perform the ceremony you will need to obtain both their and my agreement.

THE FORM OF CEREMONY:

The Marriage Service is in the Book of Common Prayer, in two Forms. Marriage One is in traditional language, Marriage Two is in contemporary language. Following discussion together, and bearing in mind your preferences I will decide which is appropriate. Please discuss this with me. The services are on p 405 of the Prayer Book.

PERSONAL DETAILS:

In this leaflet you will find duplicate forms for your personal details. Please use one form for your own records and return the loose one to me. It is important to keep your record safe so that if any subsequent changes (e.g. in address) take place, you can keep me updated. Complete as much of the form as you can at this stage. **Until I receive this form, your wedding date is not booked.**

REHEARSAL:

About two days before the Ceremony, the Bridal Party comes to the Church to walk through the service with the officiating clergy. Any last minute questions can be sorted out then. Bride, Groom, Bride's Escort, Best Man (&c.) Bridesmaid(s) and any others walking up the aisle should be at the rehearsal (normally at 7pm). This lasts about 30 minutes. Please bring the completed Marriage Schedule with you to the Rehearsal.

Making your day special

MUSIC:

It is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to contact the Cathedral Organist (Mr David Falconer Tel No.) to arrange for music at your wedding. Discuss with the organist all matters relating to music and hymns. May I suggest you speak to him after a service in Church and arrange a suitable time to meet for a longer chat. If planning to use an alternative accompaniment, please discuss this with him also.

SELECTING HYMNS:

There are at least two hymns at a wedding service, occasionally a Psalm is said or sung, and sometimes the couple ask a Soloist/ Instrumentalist to sing or play during the Signing of the Register. Please discuss your choice of hymns and music with both the Organist and me so we can ensure they are suitable. It is best to choose hymns with which your family and friends will be familiar, and some suggestions follow:

Amazing grace
Be thou my vision
God is love
In Christ alone
Jesus, whose presence blessed
Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
Lord of all hopefulness
Lord of the home
Love divine, all loves excelling
O perfect Love
Praise, my soul, the King of heaven
The King of love my shepherd is
The Lord's my shepherd

Psalms from the Prayer Book

23 The Lord is my shepherd
67 God be merciful to us
121 I will lift up mine eyes
128 Blessed are all they

There are other suitable Hymns and Psalms

Preparations for the Day

ORDERS OF SERVICE:

Often a couple decide to get an Order of Service printed. This should be done professionally, well in advance of the Day, having first spoken to me to draw up a draft copy. If you are not going to use a commercial printer, the Cathedral Office can produce a simple order of service or insert for you to use.

READINGS:

I normally select and read two passages of scripture at a wedding. You are welcome to suggest a member of the congregation to read these. Readings are from the Bible. A list is recommended on page 418 of the Book of Common Prayer

FLOWERS:

The Church has a Flower Roster. Please inform Mrs Caroline Wallace on _____ of your intentions re flowers. If you plan to leave flowers in church after the ceremony, it is good to know this well in advance. It is also vital that The Flower Organiser knows to arrange for the removal of flowers, as there are always flowers in the church. They might clash!

PHOTOGRAPHY:

Photographs may not be taken during the service. Before or after the service, it is acceptable. If a Video Recording is to be made, strict conditions must be observed so that the service will not be unduly interrupted. You must always seek permission.

SUBSCRIPTIONS & FEES:

There is no fixed fee levied for the Use of the Church. However it is appropriate that a couple, who do not otherwise subscribe to the church, should give a substantial gift towards the upkeep of the wonderful building in which their wedding takes place. If you wish to give such a subscription, may I suggest you give it to Dromore Cathedral Development Fund.

Suggested fees otherwise are as follows:

ORGANIST	
CLERGY	optional
VERGER	

You should bring fees on the day in marked envelopes.

Church Regulations

This is a guide to the legal regulations surrounding marriage in church and does not purport to be a statement of law.

You may be married in the Parish Church where you are resident or an accustomed member, provided that at least one of you is a member of the Church of Ireland. You may not be married if you are related to each other within certain degrees of affinity. You must be at least eighteen years old, or else, if sixteen or seventeen, have obtained special written permission from your parent or guardian. Currently if one or both parties to a marriage have been married before and the former partner(s) is still living, special arrangements can sometimes be made though often this is not possible. [Please consult with me before making any moves about this.]

State Regulations

Marriages in the cathedral may take place when the couple have obtained a Marriage Schedule from the Registrar at our local district Council Offices, currently at Banbridge.

Telephone Number 028 4066 0614.

- 1. Obtain a Marriage Notice Application Form.** Both parties must complete and return a Marriage Notice about 8 weeks before their wedding. These can be obtained from the Church Office or District Registrar. Currently a fee of £30 per couple, £15.00 each is payable.
- 2. Prove your identity.** Accompanying the application are a Birth Certificate and/or a Passport or similar photographic ID, and any former marriage papers (when a widow or widower is involved).
- 3. Agreement of the Minister.** The couple must obtain the written agreement of an authorised Church of Ireland Officiant (the Minister who will conduct the service).
- 4. Collect Schedule in person.** Either the bride or the bridegroom must collect the Marriage Schedule in person from the registrar during office hours up to 14 days before the Day.
- 5. Complete the Marriage Schedule.** The Schedule is completed on the day of the wedding by five signatories, the Officiant, the couple and two witnesses aged at least 16. This schedule is returned to the registrar for a Marriage Certificate to be issued.

Please complete this page and return the copy to the Rector as soon as practicable:

Application for Wedding Ceremony:

DATE

TIME

THE GROOM

GROOM'S FULL NAME

ADDRESS &

POSTCODE

TEL

GROOM'S OCCUPATION

GROOM'S DATE OF BIRTH

THE BRIDE

BRIDE'S FULL NAME

ADDRESS &

POSTCODE

TEL

BRIDE'S OCCUPATION

BRIDE'S DATE OF BIRTH

Will you be requesting the use of the organ? YES/NO (Circle)

Suggested Hymns and/or Psalms:

Will you be arranging printing an Order of Service? YES/NO

How many rings will you be using: ONE/TWO

Proposed Address following your marriage (if known)

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Day and Time of Rehearsal:

DATE

TIME

