

**The Catholic Church of  
Our Lady of Lourdes and Saint Gerard Majella,  
Lostock Hall**

**Getting Married?**



This is love: not that we loved God, but that God loved us ....

(1 John 4: 10)

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**Getting Married?**

Many congratulations on your decision to be married. This leaflet will help you with the plans and arrangements that you need to make concerning the ceremony at the church.

Generally speaking, you may marry in the Catholic Church if:

- at least one of you is a Roman Catholic;
- neither of you has been married before;
- you are 18 years old or over.

To marry in the Roman Catholic parish of Lostock Hall, at least one of you will normally reside in the parish. The Civil Law states that the church in which you plan to get married must normally be within the registration district where you or your partner resides. The Church's Canon Law states that your marriage is to be celebrated in the parish in which either of you is residing. It is not enough that you like the church, or that the church happens to be near your Reception venue, or that you have a soft spot for Lostock Hall - or even that you are an old friend of the parish priest. Of course, attending Mass regularly in the parish is your best excuse for getting married here!

You need to give us at least six months' notice (**we would prefer 12 months**) of your intention to marry.

The process of planning your marriage with us will take the following pattern:

- 1 **If you have been married before or have been divorced please contact the priest before you make any arrangements for the wedding.**
2. A meeting with the priest with whom you have been in contact, to ascertain that you are free to marry in the Catholic Church. A date for your proposed wedding will be discussed at this meeting, and not before.
- 3 At this meeting, essential paperwork will be completed. The priest will need to see: if you are a Catholic, a new copy of your baptismal certificate (issued in the last six months) from the parish in which you were baptised; if you are a Christian of another church, a copy of your original baptismal certificate. If you are unable to bring these documents with you to the initial meeting, don't worry, but we will need to see them in due course, and certainly in good time before the proposed wedding date. **Please inform the Parish Priest if you haven't been Confirmed.**

4 You need to ensure that you fulfil the legal requirements to get married by approaching your local Register Office and making an appointment to see them. It is your responsibility to provide the necessary legal documentation to the Parish Registrar, Margaret Cronin before the wedding or to the Priest at the wedding rehearsal at the latest. The local register Office is in Preston.

Mrs Margaret Cronin our registrar can be contacted on 01772 336475.

If you live in separate registration districts, you will need to contact each Registrar concerned. You will find the address of any Registrar by looking in a telephone or Thompson's directory.

If the Catholic lives outside the Catholic Parish of Lostock Hall, you also need a Letter of Freedom and permission from the priest of the Catholic parish in which you reside. Both of you need, please, to be prepared to supply a letter from your parent(s), stating simply that to the best of their knowledge you have never been married before.

5 After the initial meeting with the priest you will be asked to attend a Marriage Preparation Programme. The present Marriage Preparation programme is arranged by the Diocese and the priest will give you details of the forthcoming dates when he meets with you.

It is a compulsory requirement before a wedding and so please make this a priority. Owing to the cost of materials, booklets etc.

6 Once you have completed the Preparation Programme, please contact the priest or parish secretary and supply a copy of the certificate of attendance and a further meeting will then be arranged with the priest.

7 At some stage after a date for your proposed wedding has been agreed, a wedding rehearsal date will be added to the diary. For the rehearsal it's helpful to have the following personnel available if at all possible: bride, groom, best man, principal bridesmaid, bride's father and readers. Any others who wish to come to the rehearsal are more than welcome.

8 Unfortunately we have to charge a fee for the Wedding etc. which will be explained to you by the priest.

The following details, names and numbers may help you with your arrangements:

### **Music**

You may have an organists of your own which, of course, you are free to employ. However, if you do not, our parish organist is customarily used and his details will be supplied at the meeting:

The organist can advise and provide details and the booking of a small choir. All the arrangements for music at your wedding are made directly with the organist concerned. However, it is very important that you discuss with the priest who will

be celebrating your wedding all of your proposals and plans before going to print in any booklet that you may be preparing.

All fees concerning the use of the organist are discussed directly with them.

Please note that it is considered inappropriate to use either 'secular' (i.e. non-religious) or pre-recorded (i.e. CDs) music at a wedding celebrated in the parish.

### **Flowers**

You may wish to use professional florists for your wedding which, of course, you are free to do. However, we have a number of talented flower-arrangers in the parish that can help you too.

All costs concerning flowers are discussed directly with them. In the first instance, please contact:

Mrs. Irene Crook Tel: 01772 446544.

### **Readings**

You must have at least one reading from the Bible at your marriage ceremony, but more are possible (though not necessary). Usually, only Bible readings are acceptable. Texts from other sources, or poems, are best reserved for use at the Reception.

### **Photography and video**

Your photographer is allowed to take photographs in the church as long as he/she does not get in the way or distract attention from the service, and similarly with video recordings.

However with sound or vision recordings you may be breaking copyright laws by recording marriage texts, hymns and music. If the copyright holder chose to do so, everyone taking part in the service, including best man and bridesmaids could be prosecuted!

So if you want to record the service the onus is on you to obtain a license from:

Mechanical Copyright Protection Society Ltd

Elgar House 41 Streatham High Road London SW16 1ER Tel. 0208-769-4400

And finally ....

We are delighted that you want to get married with us and will do everything we can to make your day a happy and memorable one. Most importantly, we promise to pray for you and to keep praying for you between now and the wedding. Please do not hesitate to contact us, using the details listed below:

**Parish**

Father Xavier Ho

The Presbytery, 17c Browndge Road, Lostock Hall, Preston 01772 338387