

# MDINA CATHEDRAL PARISH

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## Instructions for Weddings at Mdina Cathedral for foreigners not living in Malta

**Thank you for choosing the Metropolitan Cathedral of St Paul in Mdina Malta for your wedding ceremony.**

**The following is a check list from our part which you need to follow prior to your marriage date.**

### **BEFORE THE WEDDING**

#### **1. Start of process**

You are to begin the process **six (6) months** prior to your wedding date.

#### **2. Regulations**

Our regulations are the same as your home Diocese. We will **accept** whatever pre-marriage process your Diocese has.

#### **3. Documentation**

The Bride's and Bridegroom's Parish Priests' **Pre-Marital Questionnaire** and any other certificates such as that of **Baptism and Confirmation** must be sent. The complete mailing address of the Baptism Church must also be sent. Any **Dispensation**, if there is, must be first sent to the Marriage Office of your Diocese accompanied by a letter of recommendation and granted permission from the Parish Priest of the Bride, to get married outside the Bride's Parish.

#### **4. Your Diocese will forward the above information (i.e the completed marriage documents) to the following address:**

**The Marriage Office  
Archdiocese of Malta  
P.O. Box 1  
Floriana FRN1520  
Malta**

#### **5. Marriages to be registerd in Malta**

For the couple to register their **Marriage** in Malta, unless already married civilly, must notify the Marriage Registry in Valletta. This can be done through one of the Maltese Ambassies. The couple must submit a photocopy of their passports, together with a photocopy of the witnesses' passports and father's information to:

**The Marriage Rgistry  
Evans Building  
Merchants Street  
Valletta VLT 200  
Malta  
Tel: +356 2220 9200**

**Email: [pubreg.marriage@gov.mt](mailto:pubreg.marriage@gov.mt)**

#### **6. The Wedding Notification Form**

The couple should bring the **Wedding Notification Form** from the Archbishop's Curia in Floriana and give it to the Archpriest of the Cathedral a week before the wedding.

## 7. The Act of Marriage

The couple should also bring two copies of **The Act of Marriage** from the Marriage Registry in Valletta and give to the Cathedral Archpriest a week before the marriage. Both copies are to be signed during the wedding ceremony.

## 8. Priest to bless the wedding

The couple should find a **priest** of their choice to bless their wedding and then give all the details to the Cathedral Archpriest to be able to issue authorization. The couple are encouraged to plan the Wedding Mass with the priest and also choose the Readings. It is important to check with the Priest if the wedding falls on a Solemnity such as the Ascension, Pentecost and Holy Trinity. If so then the Mass has to be of the Solemnity and only one reading is from the Wedding Mass. The wedding organizer and those responsible for the printed matter are to be informed.

## 9. Flower arrangements

Prior to the wedding, the couple should inform the Cathedral sextons about the delivery of the flower arrangements. **The flower arrangement must not be done in the Cathedral but brought already made.** Do not exaggerate in the quantity of flowers. Beauty is in simplicity.

## ON THE WEDDING DAY

### 10. The photographers

**The Photographers** should be informed not to disturb the Wedding Mass with their movements. This is your special occasion and no one should ruin it running about. Also the photographers need not bring any spot lights or reflectors with them as the Cathedral will be fully lit including the chandeliers. The Cathedral provides a **red carpet** from the sanctuary, along the aisle to the main door.

### 11. Dress Code

It is very important that the couple and the guests come **properly dressed** as befits the House of God. There are strict orders from superiors not to allow anybody enter the church not properly dressed.

### 11. The groom and the two witnesses

The Groom and the two witnesses must come to the Cathedral some thirty minutes before the start of the Wedding and introduce themselves to the priest who is to officiate the mass.

### 12. Punctuality

The Wedding Mass has to start on the agreed time. Therefore the bride must **be punctual**. Remember that the Wedding Mass is the most important part of the celebration and if it starts late all would be done in a hurry.

### 13. Music

During the Wedding, the music has to be **live sacred music** and the hymns must be **liturgical hymns**. Profane music and love songs as well as DJs playing music/CDs, are **absolutely forbidden** in Church. They are anti-liturgical (Cf. The Instruction Redemptionis Sacramentum par.58).

### 14. The Cathedral Organ

The **Cathedral organ** can be played only by a **qualified organist** who is recognized as such by the Cathedral Chapter. Therefore it is best if this decision is taken quite some time before.

### 15. Music playing

Inform the musician that **music must not be played** during the taking of the Marriage Vows, during the Eucharistic Prayer, during the Consecration and Elevation (Cf. The instruction Redemptionis Sacramentum par. 53).

#### **16. The Act of Marriage**

When you sign the two copies of **The Act of Marriage** at the end of the Wedding Mass, the bride is to sign with her **maiden surname**. It is important that you do **not** take with you these two copies after you sign them because the Cathedral Archpriest has to return them duly signed to the Marriage Registry in Valletta.

#### **17. The usage of confetti**

The Mdina Local Council, by an official letter of the 10th of July 2009, has informed us that the showering of **rice** or **confetti** and the letting-off of white **doves** while the married couple is leaving the Cathedral are **not permitted**. The showering of **rice, confetti** or **flower petals** inside the Cathedral is strictly prohibited.

#### **18. Marriage dues**

The marriage dues for your wedding are paid at the Archbishop's Curia in Floriana and at the Marriage Registry in Valletta. The only **extra** payment is to the Cathedral sexton (sacristan) and is paid directly by the couple, as he has to work overtime for the wedding. The current fee is €30.

**I wish you a beautiful wedding, and a happy married life. But remember that this depends mainly on your serious preparation during your courtship. Our Lord considers wise those who build on solid rock and stupid those who build on sand. Therefore give the greatest importance not to the wedding but to your marriage which starts with the vows which you make before God and the community, and which you must keep throughout your whole married life.**

**Congratulations and God Bless you.**

**Msgr. Anthony Cassar**  
**Archpriest – Metropolitan Cathedral of St Paul**