

MDINA CATHEDRAL PARISH

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Instructions for Weddings at Mdina Cathedral for Maltese Residents

BEFORE THE WEDDING

1. Booking Note

After you book your wedding at the Mdina Parish Office, take the **Booking Note** to your respective Parish Priests for them to sign and bring it back duly signed to the Cathedral Archpriest at your earliest; thus the booking is confirmed.

2. Wedding Notification Form

You have to bring, from the Archbishop's Curia in Floriana to the Archpriest of the Cathedral, after your marriage bonds, your **Wedding Notification Form** at least a month before the wedding.

3. The Act of Marriage

Ten working days before the wedding you must also collect from the Marriage Registry in Valletta and bring to the Cathedral Archpriest two copies of **The Act of Marriage** which you are to sign during your wedding.

4. Priest to bless the wedding

You have to find yourselves a **priest** to bless your wedding and then give all his details to the Cathedral Archpriest to give him the authorisation. You will have to prepare with him and rehearse your Wedding Mass and also choose the Readings. Check with him whether the wedding falls on a Solemnity, such as the Ascension, Pentecost and Holy Trinity, because in that case the Mass has to be of the Solemnity and only one reading is from the Wedding Mass. Inform about it also the wedding organizer and the person who prepares the pamphlets.

ON THE WEDDING DAY

5. Flower arrangements

Inform beforehand the Cathedral sexton when you are to bring the flower arrangements. **The flower arrangements must not be done in the Cathedral but brought already made.** Do not exaggerate in the quantity of flowers. Beauty is in simplicity.

6. The photographers

Inform **the photographers** not to disturb the Wedding Mass with their movements. This is your special occasion and no one should ruin it running about. Also they 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.

7. Dress Code

It is very important that you and your guests come **properly dressed** as befits the House of God. We have strict orders from our superiors not to allow anybody enter the church not properly dressed.

8. Groom and 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 going to officiate.

9. 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, everything is done in a hurry.

10. Sacred 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 CDs, are **absolutely forbidden** in Church, as they are anti-liturgical. (Cf. The Instruction *Redemptionis Sacramentum* par.58).

11. The Cathedral Organ

The Cathedral organ can be played only by a qualified organist who is recognized as such by the Cathedral Chapter. So check beforehand if you are going to have an organist.

12. Music playing

Inform also 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).

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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.

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Thank you for choosing the Metropolitan Cathedral of St Paul for your wedding ceremony.

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**