Getting Married in Magheralin Parish

MAGHERALIN PARISH
Across Magheralin & Dollingstown

Guidelines & Expectations for Couples

Congratulations on your engagement! Christian marriage is a gift of God in creation through which a man and a woman enter into a lifelong covenant before Him and His church."Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."(Genesis 2:24, ESV)

We are delighted that you are considering celebrating your wedding at Magheralin Parish (The Church of the Holy and Undivided Trinity, Magheralin, or St Saviour's Church, Dollingstown). To support you as you prepare for your wedding day and your lifelong marriage together, the parish sets out the following steps and expectations.

1. Initial Conversation with Clergy

Your first step is to arrange an initial, informal conversation with one of the parish ministers. This provides an opportunity to get to know each other, discuss your desire for a Christian ceremony, and confirm your connection to the parish.

2. Wedding Enquiry Form & Reception Venue Booking

- **Official Documentation:** Following your initial conversation, you will be asked to complete the official Magheralin Parish Wedding Enquiry Form.
- **Crucial Note on Reception Venues:** Please do not confirm, place a deposit on, or book your reception venue until your wedding date and time have been formally agreed with the clergy and confirmed with the Parish Office. The church building and officiating minister must be confirmed as available before reception bookings are finalised.

3. Pre-Marriage Preparation Course

Christian marriage is a sacred and lifelong commitment. To help build strong foundations for your married life together, couples marrying within the parish are expected to undertake pre-marriage preparation:

- Course Requirement: Completion of the Christian Guidelines Pre-Marriage Course, or an approved alternative agreed in advance with the Rector.
- Timing: Couples should book and complete this course well in advance of the wedding date to allow adequate time for reflection.

4. Regular Church Attendance

A church wedding is an act of Christian worship rather than simply a venue booking.

- Couples are expected to attend Sunday services regularly (either morning or evening worship) in the months leading up to the wedding.
- Regular worship connects you with the church family and with the ministers who are praying for and walking alongside you.

5. Planning Meetings with Clergy

During your engagement, you will attend scheduled meetings with the minister conducting your service. These meetings focus on:

- Pastoral care and reflecting on your pre-marriage preparation.
- Crafting the wedding service, including the selection of Scripture readings, hymns/worship songs, prayers, and service sheet formatting.
- Please do not print out your order of service before it has been checked through by clergy.

6. Legal Requirements (Craigavon Civic Centre)

Please note that the legal requirements for marriage are entirely separate from church arrangements. The church cannot undertake the legal registration process for couples:

- **Marriage Notice:** All couples must submit their Marriage Notice forms directly to the local Registrar at Craigavon Civic Centre (Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council).
- **Timelines:** Marriage Notice forms (with relevant identification and council fees) must be lodged between 8 weeks and 12 months prior to the wedding date (the Registrar strongly recommends 10 to 12 weeks prior).
- **Marriage Schedule:** You must collect the official Marriage Schedule in person from Craigavon Civic Centre prior to the wedding day and present it to the officiating minister before the ceremony. By law, a wedding ceremony cannot take place without the Marriage Schedule present.

7. The Wedding Rehearsal

A rehearsal in the church building is required during the week immediately prior to the wedding. This gives the bride, groom, best man, bridesmaids, readers, and parents an opportunity to walk through the service and feel completely comfortable with the proceedings.

8. Fees & Financial Contributions

To assist couples with planning, the parish operates a clear framework regarding contributions towards church facilities and operational expenses:

Category	Description	Contribution
Contributing Parishioners of at least £100 per annum in past 3 years	No mandatory building fee. If couples desire, a donation can be made towards heating, lighting, and general fabric upkeep.	No fee necessary, unless desired.
External / Recent Parishioners	Fixed church facility fee covering building use, utilities, and administration.	£750 suggested donation
Operational Staff	Honorariums for parish organist, sexton, or sound/ AV technicians.	Fee arranged with musician/s. Gift of £50+ to anyone else involved in service.

Payment Schedule: Church donations, if applicable, can be arranged prior to the wedding rehearsal. Gifts to individuals involved in the service can be passed on at discretion of couple, but often occurs on the day of the ceremony.

Contact Information

Parish Office

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