



THE OXFORD  
ORATORY

# Weddings at the Oxford Oratory



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Sharron Gibson Photographer  
[www.sharrongibson.co.uk](http://www.sharrongibson.co.uk)  
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Getting married is a joyful celebration of love and commitment. If you are planning your wedding, we want to help you make the day as special as possible — and the life that follows too.

Marriage is such an important step in anyone's life that the Church wants to help to prepare those getting married as much as possible. The first stage of planning is to get in touch with one of the Fathers, at least six months before the wedding. This gives you plenty of time for the spiritual and practical preparations, and to sort out all of the civil paperwork too.

# Who can get married in our church?

In order to be married in our church, at least one of the parties must be a baptised Catholic. You both need to be free to marry — if you have ever been through any kind of wedding ceremony before, even outside the Catholic Church, you should talk to one of the Fathers about this first.

You don't have to live in our parish boundaries to have your wedding here. If you do live outside our parish, speak to one of the Fathers before asking your local parish priest about marriage preparation and completing the paperwork. Your parish priest will have to give his permission for you to marry outside of your local parish.

# Getting married outside the parish

If you live in our parish but are planning to marry in another parish or overseas, one of the Fathers will still help you with your preparation and paperwork. If you are marrying overseas, you should give at least 12 months' notice, since the administrative process takes longer.

# When can I get married?

Please remember that it is important to approach the church first before making your plans for a reception venue. We do not ordinarily celebrate weddings on a Sunday or during Lent. Our church is in use every day, so the time of your wedding will be limited by our regular Mass schedule.

## Preparation

The first step in preparation is to meet the priest performing your wedding. He will usually see you three times before the day itself, and will be on hand to guide you through the whole process.

You will need to attend a Catholic marriage preparation course, which may be online or in person. The Father instructing you will be able to recommend a course.

In order to complete the paperwork, you will need to provide a recent baptism certificate, a certificate of confirmation and written evidence that you are both free to marry. The Father instructing you will be able to explain all of this in more detail. In certain circumstances, special permission for the marriage needs to be sought from the Archbishop of Birmingham.

You and your partner will also have to go to the register office to get a marriage schedule to allow you to get married. You cannot get married without this marriage schedule, as this constitutes the legal side of the wedding.

Before receiving the sacrament of marriage itself, it is also important to prepare spiritually through prayer, and by going to confession shortly before the day itself.

# Fees

There is no fixed fee for weddings. Couples being married in our church are asked to consider contributing 5% of the total cost of their wedding day expenses. This is a donation for the ceremony itself, and does not include the costs of a marriage preparation course or of music.

If your preparation and paperwork is undertaken by one of the Fathers but you are marrying outside of the parish, there is a fee of £150, which includes the diocesan administrative charges.

Financial means should never be an obstacle to getting married in the Church. Please speak to one of the Fathers if these costs present any difficulties to you.

# The wedding ceremony

There are two forms that a Catholic wedding can take: a nuptial Mass or a ceremony outside of Mass. A nuptial Mass is the usual form for two Catholics. A ceremony without Mass is more appropriate for the marriage between a Catholic and a non-Catholic or non-Christian.

Either ceremony can be celebrated in English or in Latin. The priest will be able to provide you with the relevant readings and texts for the order of service and should approve the final order of service before it is printed. Only readings from scripture are permitted in church.

A nuptial Mass can last up to an hour, depending on the choice of music and number of people attending. A ceremony without Mass is usually between 30 minutes and an hour.

# Flowers, confetti, parking & photography

You will need to contact a florist to arrange the flowers for your wedding. You should normally provide two large arrangements for the sanctuary. It is possible to have flowers elsewhere in church as long as they are not in the way of other services. We usually ask you to leave the flowers in the sanctuary so that the church will be decorated for the rest of the week.

Please ask your guests not to throw confetti, rice or flower petals when you leave the church. Bubbles are a clean alternative!

Our church is in the city centre with only a tiny amount of outdoor space, so sadly there is no parking available at the church.

You are welcome to book a photographer for the wedding. Ask the photographer to speak to the priest on the day about where he is allowed to take photos from in church.

We have a live streaming facility set up in church. If you would like your wedding streamed online, you will be provided with a private link before the day to share with your virtual guests. The recording will remain available online after the day as well.

# Music

All the musicians at the Oratory are experienced professionals who will help you to plan the best music for your wedding. One of the ways we can ensure this high standard is by using only our own musicians. This means that no other singers, organists or musicians are permitted to provide wedding music at the Oratory.

Get in touch with our director of music, who will be able to give you more information about the music for your wedding. Please note that only sacred music is permitted in church.

Once you have decided the arrangements for your wedding music you will be emailed an invoice for payment. This may be paid as soon as is convenient, but must be paid in full 14 days before the wedding ceremony. In the event of cancellation or postponement, payments are non-refundable. The fees include permission to make audio or audio-visual recordings of the music at the ceremony.

# Useful contacts

## **The Oxford Oratory**

25 Woodstock Road  
Oxford  
OX2 6HA

01865 315 800

[contact@oxfordoratory.org.uk](mailto:contact@oxfordoratory.org.uk)

[www.oxfordoratory.org.uk](http://www.oxfordoratory.org.uk)

## **Director of Music**

Rory Moules

[music@oxfordoratory.org.uk](mailto:music@oxfordoratory.org.uk)

## **Oxford Register Office**

1 Tidmarsh Lane  
Oxford  
OX1 1NS

0845 129 5900

[registeroffice@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:registeroffice@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/community-and-living/births-deaths-and-ceremonies/registration-offices](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/community-and-living/births-deaths-and-ceremonies/registration-offices)

## **Daisies Flower Shop**

106 Walton Street  
Oxford  
OX2 6AJ

01865 554 882

[events@daisies-flower-shop.co.uk](mailto:events@daisies-flower-shop.co.uk)

[www.daisies-flower-shop.co.uk](http://www.daisies-flower-shop.co.uk)