

**What the Church requires:**

The preparations listed to prepare for your wedding ceremony here in St. Fintan's church are, in general, applicable to any church venue and probably applicable also in detail. The Preparations necessary for having your wedding ceremony here in St. Fintan's Church:

- \* Make contact with the parish office and enquire if the date you have in mind is available. A Booking Form will then be sent out to you to complete and return at your earliest convenience. Only when the completed Form has been received will your booking be confirmed in the diary.
- \* Arrange to meet the priest whom you are inviting to be the celebrant and ensure his availability on the day.
- \* If the envisaged celebrant is either one of the priests in this parish then arrange to meet with him to discuss your liturgy preparations and, if you are resident in this Parish, to complete the Pre-Nuptial Enquiry Form with him.
- \* If you do not reside in this parish then you should fill out the Pre-Nuptial Enquiry Form with a priest in your parish of residence
- \* You will need to bring the following papers with you:

Baptism Certificate newly issued in long form from the church where you were baptised. (Should be issued and dated within 6 months of the date of your wedding).

**Confirmation Certificate:** A record of your Confirmation is often shown on your Baptismal Certificate AND THIS WILL SUFFICE. If there is no record shown then you will need to get a Certificate from the parish where you received your Confirmation.

**Letter of Freedom to Marry:** You will need a Letter of Freedom from each parish in which you have resided for six months or more since you were sixteen years of age. If you have lived in many parishes in that period of time, or if it would be particularly difficult to get one, then a sworn affidavit, witnessed by a Commissioner of Oaths, will suffice.)

**The Pre Nuptial Enquiry Form.** This Form is filled out in your presence by the priest in your parish. It takes about 20 minutes to complete. It is a declaration that you are free to marry and that you understand what is involved in a Christian marriage. A separate Enquiry Form is completed for both parties. These documents are then sent by the priest to the Church in which the wedding will take place. After the wedding they will be kept in the archives for that church.