SAINT JOHN VIANNEY CATHOLIC CHURCH

VIANNEY HOUSE, 1 BISHOPTON CLOSE, MOUNT NOD, COVENTRY, CV5 7GW

COUPLES' GUIDE TO GETTING MARRIED AT SJV

"Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate." (Mark 10:9)

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1. Initial Meeting with the Parish Priest

- Arrange to meet with your parish priest at least six months before your desired wedding date to begin the marriage preparation process.
- Do not book venues, reception halls, or set a final date until after this meeting. The Church requires proper documentation and approval before any wedding date is confirmed.

2. Marriage Preparation

- After the initial meeting, you will meet with the priest five times before the wedding.
- During this time, you will also complete the online marriage course https://smartloving.org.
- Spiritual Preparation: Couples are encouraged to pray together, attend Sunday Mass, and receive the sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion.

3. Required Documents

- Baptismal Certificates (issued within the last 6 months for Catholics)
- Confirmation Certificates (if confirmed)
- Civil Marriage License/Marriage Schedule (from local authorities)
- Documents of Free Status (confirming neither party is bound by a previous marriage)
- And if applicable:
- Annulment Papers (for those previously married)
- Dispensation (if one party is not Catholic)

4. Liturgical Guidelines

- The Liturgy should be prepared in consultation with the priest; the organist (if applicable) should be arranged one month before the wedding, regardless of whether it is during a Mass or not.
- Catholic weddings are customarily celebrated within Mass if both spouses are Catholic.
- For mixed marriages (Catholic and non-Catholic), a simpler ceremony outside of Mass may be more appropriate.
- Music, readings, and vows must follow Church guidelines; secular songs are not permitted within the liturgy.

5. Why Does the Church Require Six Months' Notice?

- The couple is entering marriage freely, knowingly, and without obstacles.
- All necessary documentation and paperwork can be completed, particularly if either party was previously married.
- Adequate spiritual and pastoral preparation is provided to lay a strong foundation for a Christ-centred union.

COSTS INVOLVED IN GETTING MARRIED

PRIEST
£200.00 (if marriage preparation is done through Smart Loving)
or **£300.00** (if marriage preparation is done through the priest and not using Smart Loving)

DIOCESE (as agreed in Pre-Nuptial enquiry form)
£30.00 within Diocese/E&W *or* **£50.00** outside E&W

CHURCH/PARISH - £50.00

Other costs to consider:
Organist, Flowers, Marriage Preparation course

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