

## Useful Information about getting married at St Peter's, Stonyhurst.

Thank you for choosing Stonyhurst as the venue for the celebration of your wedding. We hope that it will be a wonderful day for you. This sheet is to help you with your preparation for your big day.

### Church Preparation

You will be receiving a Sacrament of the Catholic Church on your wedding day. This requires some spiritual preparation. Your first stop should be your own local Parish Priest. If you live in different parishes, then the Parish Priest of the Catholic party is the one to talk to. If both parties are Catholic, then the Parish Priest who knows you best.

Stonyhurst is a popular venue, so you should make sure that the date you want is available before you book a venue for your reception. **Weddings may not take place at Stonyhurst on a Sunday.**

If you live in another parish your Parish Priest MUST GIVE HIS PERMISSION for the marriage to take place outside of his parish. Hopefully he will agree to complete the Catholic paperwork and see to your spiritual preparation. There are circumstances where he will not be able to do this. If that is the case for you, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can make other arrangements. The Catholic paperwork is gathered about 6 months before the wedding.

### Civil Preparation

Up to one year – and ideally not less than 6 months – before the proposed date of your marriage you must make an appointment with your local office of Births, Marriages and Deaths ([www.gov.uk/register-office](http://www.gov.uk/register-office)) to declare your intent to marry. You will be guided through the process, which will include an interview by appointment, following which you will be sent a Marriage Schedule. This needs to be checked carefully for any errors so that they may be amended. This very important document should then be given to your designated Authorised Person, please see below, for secure storage in the church fire proof safe, in good time before the ceremony.

**Unless the Authorised Person has the Marriage Schedule the marriage may not proceed.**

Julie Macfarlane OS 78(Authorised Person No 38312) will allocate your Authorised Person (AP) at St Peter's once confirmation of the booking has been given by the parish priest at Stonyhurst.

Your allocated AP will be happy to meet with you before your marriage to assist you in your preparation for your special day. A selection of Orders of Service will be made available to help you create your own personalised version.

**The current fee (2024) to authorise your marriage at St Peter's is £150 payable in cash at the rehearsal.**

### Who will celebrate my wedding ceremony?

You are free to invite any priest or deacon in good standing in the Catholic Church to celebrate your wedding. You will need to discuss your Order of service with him. The Priest at Stonyhurst can advise about organists and flowers, but you are free to make your own arrangements. **PRE-RECORDED MUSIC MAY NOT BE PLAYED IN CHURCH. CONFETTI OR PETALS ARE NOT PERMITTED IN THE CHURCH OR IN THE GROUNDS OF STONYHURST.**

### How much will it cost?

Marriage is a Sacrament, so there is no fixed fee. However, most couples make a gift or donation to the priest who prepares the paper work and, separately, to the priest who celebrates the wedding. There is no fixed charge for the use of St Peter's, but a donation is appreciated. We are a small parish and the income we receive from weddings helps us to meet the expenses of the church. The Parish Council have suggested that couples not resident in St Peter's parish consider giving approximately 2% of their total wedding costs as a donation to St Peter's. There may be circumstances where this is not possible. Feel free to speak to the priest or your AP for advice.

### Contact information

Parish Priest;	Fr Tim Curtis SJ	Tel 01254 826268	or by email at <a href="mailto:T.Curtis.SJ@stonyhurst.ac.uk">T.Curtis.SJ@stonyhurst.ac.uk</a>
AP;	Julie Macfarlane	Tel 07946301201	or by email at <a href="mailto:shireburn.house@zen.co.uk">shireburn.house@zen.co.uk</a>