

Weddings at Christ Church Parish Church

Officiating Clergy/Marriage Officers

The officiating minister at the wedding ceremony must be an Anglican priest. Nevertheless, Barbados Christian Council (BXC) affiliated clergy, who are appropriately licensed, may be permitted to officiate at the Ivan Harewood Centre or Rectory Cliff Garden at the discretion of the rector.



The Marriage Preparation Process

For those planning to get married, the marriage preparation process may begin as early as one year, but no later than two months, prior to the proposed date of the wedding. If you plan to invite family and friends from overseas to your wedding, we advise that you begin the marriage preparation process as early as possible.

1. The couple completes a **Marriage Application Form** at the office and a tentative date and time for the wedding will be put into the church calendar. Weddings are not solemnised during the season of Lent or on Christmas bank holidays.
2. The couple has a meeting with the priest to discuss premarital counselling. The priest will determine the number of counselling sessions, and appointments will be made at times convenient to both parties.
3. If either person was married previously and that marriage ended in divorce, the divorced person(s) must make application to the Bishop of Barbados through the parish priest. The application should be made prior to an announcement of the proposed wedding date.
4. Details of the order of service are normally discussed during the final meeting with the officiating priest. The priest will also give the couple a letter for the Ministry of Home Affairs so that they may obtain a Marriage Licence.
5. Since Holy Matrimony is a Christian sacramental rite, couples who have lapsed from regularly attending church are encouraged to consider committing themselves to regular church attendance (at Christ Church or elsewhere) as they seek God's guidance and grace through the preparation process. "A couple that prays together stays together".

Marriage Licence

The officiating priest not only represents the church in the celebration of a sacramental rite, but the priest also serves as a marriage officer for the state. The priest is therefore not only bound by the faith and order of the church but also by the laws of Barbados. The priest may only officiate at a wedding ceremony if the couple has been issued a marriage licence by the government (or in rare cases when banns have been published in the church).

The Ministry of Home Affairs is responsible for issuing marriage licences. The office is located at the Attorney General's Office, Wildey, St. Michael, and these are their requirements:

- Letter from the officiating priest
- Original birth certificates and national identification card / driver's licence or a valid passport. Non-nationals must present their valid passports and/or birth certificates
- If divorced, a decree absolute/ If widowed, former spouse's death certificate
- \$10.00 postage stamp (Citizens) / \$25.00 postage stamp (Non-nationals)

If you wish clarification on any point raised in this pamphlet or if you wish, as a couple, to begin the Marriage Preparation process, please contact us at 428-8087 between 9:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., or visit the church office during opening hours (Tuesdays, Thursdays, or Saturdays: 12 noon to 2 p.m.).

INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR THE MARRIAGE APPLICATION FORM

(This information is required for the Marriage Register/Certificate and our records.
This is not an official form and is provided here for informational purposes only).

Requested Date: _____ Requested Time: _____

Place: _____

BRIDE'S FULL NAME _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth _____

Status: Spinster/divorced/widowed *

Occupation: _____

Address: _____

Baptised At: _____ Worship At: _____

Father's Name: _____ Occupation: _____

Contact Information: _____

GROOM'S FULL NAME: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth _____

Status: Bachelor/divorced/widowed *

Occupation: _____

Address: _____

Baptised At: _____ Worship At _____

Father's Name: _____ Occupation: _____

Contact Information: _____

Re: Status

*Applicants who are either widowed or divorced must bring to the office a copy of the decree absolute or their former spouse's death certificate (as the case may be)