

The Wedding Ceremony - What to Prepare

An important part of your marriage preparation is, of course, a discussion about how you would like your ceremony celebrated. This is *your* ceremony.

As much time, prayer and effort must go into this as for arranging all the other aspects of the day (flowers, dress, reception place etc etc). There is so much to prepare.

You will discuss with the wedding celebrant (Fr Michael, or the visiting celebrant) every aspect of the ceremony.

A good place to begin is this site "[catholicweddinghelp](https://www.catholicweddinghelp.com/)". It covers all the topics that you will reflect upon with your celebrant.



1935 Catholic Wedding in Spain

By Xavier - Fotografía de colección particular, Public Domain,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1765531>

Within Mass or Not?

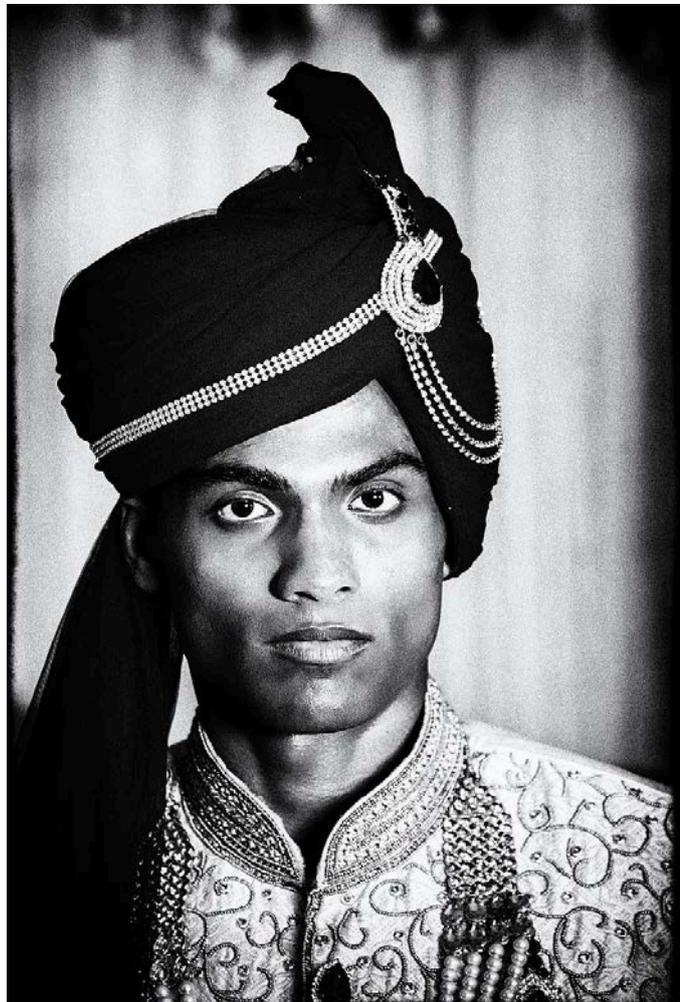
- Will you be celebrating your wedding ceremony within the celebration of the Catholic Eucharist? If so, take a look at [this](#).
- Will you be celebrating your wedding ceremony without the celebration of the Catholic Eucharist? If so, take a look at [this](#).

Both the sites above (celebrating our wedding within/outside the Catholic Mass) offer the full structure of the ceremony. Decide how you would like your ceremony to be celebrated in discussion with the celebrant.

Again, this is YOUR celebration, not the celebrant's! The celebrant is there to assist you.

Groom in the traditional Bangladeshi wedding dress

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Groom,_Bangladesh.jpg



Preparing your Ceremony: The Selections

Work through the *seven* main parts of the wedding ceremony that follow and select the prayers and Scripture readings you would like.

Then, having worked through your selections, complete the checklist below, and have it available to share with the celebrant as you discuss the ceremony together.

1. The Opening Prayer

This prayer sets the spiritual tone for the ceremony and is reminder to all gathered that you and they are in the presence of our God. Select one of [these](#) prayers.

2. The Scripture Readings

It is important to select the Scripture readings that will be proclaimed for the ceremony. You can select (from the links below) an Old Testament reading and/or a New Testament reading and a Gospel.

- A selection of Gospel readings (which the celebrant will proclaim) can be found [here](#).
- A selection of Old Testament readings, which one of your family or friends might proclaim, can be found [here](#).
- A Responsorial Psalm (to the first Reading), which another wedding guest might pray, can be found [here](#).
- A reading from the New Testament, which further wedding guest might proclaim, is found [here](#).

3. The Marriage Vows

The centrepiece of the wedding ceremony is the public exchange of your marriage commitment, the “vows”, to one another.

- Use one of these [two options](#) of beautiful, well-known vows.

4. Blessing and Exchange of Rings

A symbol of your public commitment are the rings you wear. These are now blessed and exchanged with one of [these prayers](#) that you select.

5. Prayers of the Faithful

Those gathered have an opportunity to pray for you. These prayers, which you write using [these examples](#), can be spoken by several of your guests. This is another way of involving others in your ceremony.

6. *The Nuptial Blessing*

You might like to take a look at all the options for a [nuptial blessing](#) which you would like the celebrant to pray over you towards the conclusion of the ceremony.

7. *Final Blessing*

Before you and your guests leave the church, the celebrant offers a final blessing. [Here](#) are the options from which you may select.



<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1539866>

Ceremony Checklist

Marriage Ceremony	Selection
1. Opening Prayer	
2. Scripture Readings Old Testament Responsorial Psalm New Testament Gospel	
3. Marriage Vows	
4. Blessing and Exchange of Rings	
5. Prayers of the Faithful	
6. Nuptial Blessing	
7. Final Blessing	