

Please read this information leaflet in regard to the celebration of marriages in Cill Éinde, An Spidéal. The guidelines and regulations therein will help you prepare for your special day, and to answer some of your questions.

Receipt of a confirmed booking form (including fee) implies that you accept and will comply with what, in some cases, are local requests and regulations.

Church Requirements

Notice:

The Church requires at least three months notice. Nevertheless, the church venue and the officiating priest should be engaged at an earlier stage.

Pre-Marriage Course:

Attendance at a Pre-Marriage Course is a requirement. This should also be booked with the Catholic agency ACCORD at an early stage as it can often be difficult to obtain a place on a course that is convenient to you. We only accept courses conducted by ACCORD.

Pre-Nuptial Enquiry Form:

Individually, the bride and groom must complete a Pre-Nuptial Enquiry Form with the priest in the parish in which they currently live. Generally this is straightforward. However, if dispensations are required, this process will take longer, e.g. if there is a question of having taken religious vows / a blood relationship / or one of you being a non-Catholic. The priest completing the forms with you will organise the appropriate letters of dispensation.

You should inform the priest of the parish in which you live that you are planning to get married in An Spidéal and that you will need to meet him in order to complete your paperwork. This is an opportunity to acquaint yourselves with your local clergy if you are new to the parish in which you live.

This meeting to complete the Pre-Nuptial Enquiry Form should take place at least one month, and not more than six months, before the wedding day. At least one month before the wedding date, the priest will post the completed papers to:

The Parish Priest, An Spidéal, Co. Galway

However, if either of you live outside Ireland, this process will take more time since the completed form(s) must be sent from the Bishop's Office of the foreign diocese in which you live to:

**The Diocesan Secretary,
Galway Diocesan Office,
The Cathedral,
Galway, Ireland.**

Before meeting the priest to work on the Pre-Nuptial Enquiry Form, you may need to contact a number of parishes in advance to obtain all of the following:

- **Baptism Certificate:** A recent transcript of your Baptismal Record with specific reference to marital status.
- **Confirmation Certificate**
- A **Letter of Freedom** from each parish in which you lived for six months or more since you were 16 years old.
- Evidence of having completed a **Pre-Marriage Course.**

Civil Requirements

A marriage is not valid in civil law unless three months notification is given to the Registrar of Marriages. You, as a couple, must contact the Civil Registrar as a matter of urgency at any of its offices within Ireland in order to book an appointment to give your three months notice of intention to marry. This will assist them in spreading the workload more evenly across the twelve months of the year, and perhaps make it easier for you to obtain a more suitable appointment. See www.groireland.ie/getting_married.htm

If the name of the priest whom you intend to solemnise (officiate at) the marriage is not on the Registrar's **List of Solemnisers**, this parish will supply you with a registration form which you will forward to the priest for completion.

At the meeting with the Registrar, you will receive a **Marriage Registration Form** which you will return to the Registrar after the marriage, signed by the parties.

The Wedding Ceremony

Sacramental Marriage in the Catholic Church may take place within the celebration of Mass or without a Eucharistic celebration. Your decision regarding the celebration of the sacrament within or outside the context of Mass will depend on (1) your own faith, and/or (2) the possibility of a Mixed Marriage being involved, i.e. a marriage between a Catholic and a non-Catholic Christian or a non-Christian.

There are good reasons why one might not have Eucharist as part of a marriage ceremony. You should discuss these options with the priest who is to officiate at your marriage, if you think that it might be relevant.

Sunday Weddings

In accordance with the policy of Galway Diocese regarding Sunday marriages, we prefer not to take bookings for Sundays.

Sacramental Preparation

In order to open yourselves more fully to the experience of God's grace and blessing as you celebrate Sacramental Marriage, it is recommended that you avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the period leading up to the wedding.

The Church regulation that calls for a one-hour fast before receiving Holy Communion should be strictly observed, particularly in relation to alcohol.

Flowers

Flowers add to the festive nature of a wedding. However, Cill Éinde is not able to absorb too many floral arrangements. Over-decoration takes from this special building, obscuring the beauty of the windows and artwork, the roof and other features.

The altar is quite small. Flowers are not to be placed there. If you wish to conduct a Candle-Lighting Ceremony as part of your wedding, a stand is available that can be placed at the side.

Those who will arrange flowers for you should not use the church as a workplace. As much preparation as possible should be carried out in advance of delivery.

Reverence

You have chosen to be married in a place of worship and prayer. We expect you and your guests to respect our church as a special place. **Please be reverent at all times.**

Do not use the church as a place of assembly when you arrive for rehearsal and before the marriage itself. After the marriage, move on without too much delay to the celebrations in your hotel venue.

Music

We insist that the music you choose be in keeping with the sacred surroundings. There exists a large repertoire of suitable religious hymns and sacred music that will enhance your wedding celebration - traditional, classical and modern, Irish and international, vocal and instrumental. You should consult with your priest regarding appropriate music well before your wedding day. In particular, the music you choose for Communion time should be appropriately Eucharistic. If you obtain the services of a music group with musical and electronic equipment, rather than place themselves beside the sanctuary area, there is a more suitable space opposite the main entrance. The church is not to be used for musical rehearsal before the wedding.

Photographs and Video-Recording

Please bring the following information to the attention of your photographer and/or video crew before the wedding day:

Photographs and videos are to be taken discreetly and without distraction. It is not acceptable for photographers or video crews to enter the sanctuary area at any time. The placement of tripods etc. is by consultation with the presiding priest - and not on the sanctuary. Given the capability of modern video-recording equipment, the use of extra lighting should not be necessary.

The final procession down the aisle is an integral part of the marriage ceremony and should not be delayed by additional photography. No scattering of confetti or flower petals.

The church interior is not to be used as a venue for general wedding photographs after the wedding ceremony.

Punctuality

While it might be fashionable for a bride to be a few minutes late, as a matter of courtesy, please ensure that the ceremony commences at the intended time.

Wedding Rehearsal

Most couples have a short wedding rehearsal a day or two before the wedding. If possible, the sacristan will be present to offer you every assistance. Contact the parish office (091-553155) to arrange a time that will not interfere with regular ceremonies or that will not involve the Church Sacristan staying late.

Church Fee

There is a charge of €500, payable at the time of booking, for those who reside outside the parish of An Spidéal. This fee covers processing the paperwork involved in your wedding, the use of the church facilities, preparation, lighting, heating, cleaning up, etc.

For parishioners whose families contribute financially to the upkeep of the church in the normal manner, a donation to the Parish on the occasion of a wedding is at your discretion. However, a €150 booking deposit, necessary to secure a booking, applies to all.

Offerings to the Officiating Priest, the Church Sacristan and Altar Servers are your own discretion.

Officiating Priest

The Parish Priest of An Spidéal is unable to officiate at the many weddings which take place in Cill Éinde. Couples who do not have family connections with the parish are expected to secure their own priest who must be in good standing and on the Civil Register of Solemnisers.

After the Wedding

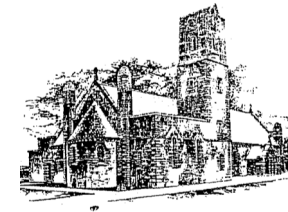
Please arrange to take away candles, flowers etc. that you wish to keep. Unwanted booklets should be collected. The use of confetti is not allowed. The church itself, nor the church grounds, is to be used to host coffee or ice-cream or other such receptions.

Bookings are accepted on the understanding that you as a couple are able to establish your freedom to celebrate the sacrament of marriage in the Catholic Church.

Contact: The Parish Priest, Cill Éinde, An Spidéal, Co. Galway.

Phone: 091-553155

email: cilleinde@eircom.net



The Celebration of Christian Marriage in Cill Éinde, An Spidéal

**“What the architect has created
is an original work of art.”**

(Lord Killanin, writing about Cill Éinde, 1950)

When Fr. Mark Conroy became parish priest of An Spidéal in 1897, he decided to build a new church. Edward Martyn of Tulira suggested that William A. Scott of Dublin be given the commission. He was, at that time, an unknown architect, but afterwards designed many other fine buildings. As head of architecture at University College Dublin, W.A. Scott was responsible for some of the more innovative buildings in Ireland during the early part of the twentieth century. Unfortunately, he left a relatively small canon of work as he died at the early age of fifty.

The general style of Cill Éinde is Irish Romanesque, but Scott also used early Christian and Medieval ideas in blending the whole building. Robert Elliot, the art historian, wrote of Cill Éinde: “Mr. Scott took into consideration the type of people who worship in this church, who tell beads and pray simply rather than desire garish lights to read bulky manuals of devotion.”

Sarah Purser's Studios were engaged by Scott to design and execute much of the stained glass windows. The Stations of the Cross are a mosaic of painted glass, technically called *opus sectile*, also designed by the famous Miss Purser.

In 1985 restoration work was carried out. More light was allowed into the church. Two new stained glass windows by