

## Preparing for Marriage

*“Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death.”*  
(Song of Songs 8:6)

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Many congratulations on your engagement! In responding to God’s call to enter marriage you are setting out on a profound and beautiful journey together which, we pray, will bring you, your families and wider society rich and abundant blessings.

The person responsible for preparing you for marriage and for your wedding and also for helping you complete the required paperwork is your Parish Priest, that is, the priest of the parish in which you live now. He should be the first person that you contact when approaching the Church about marriage. Be sure to do this before you make any other arrangements or bookings.

As a couple, you will be asked by your priest to complete some form of marriage preparation. This may consist of a series of meetings with him, enrolment in a parish or deanery marriage course or he may ask you to register for one of the Archdiocesan courses [link - <https://archedinburgh.org/administration/marriage-preparation-courses/>].

Marriage Preparation aims to introduce you to the Catholic Church’s vision and understanding of marriage as God’s plan for a man and a woman to form a life-long partnership of mutual love and support, to express their natural life-giving creativity by establishing a family and to build healthy societies by bringing children up in a stable environment of faithfulness and unconditional love that reflects God’s loving relationship with the human race.

Couples are invited also to reflect on some important aspects of growing and sustaining their relationship including sacraments, prayer, good communication and managing conflict. It also presents the Marriage Rite, emphasising the importance and significance of the vows made in the church, before God, family and friends.

No marriage preparation course will be exhaustive, and we encourage you to see the course as one element of your spiritual, emotional and practical preparation for life together as a married couple. Please look around these resources pages to find pointers to other resources and organisations that can help your formation and also support you once married.