

# The Sacrament of **MARRIAGE**

At the Church Of The Good Shepherd, Thackrays Lane, Woodthorpe, Nottingham Tel no: 0115 926 8288

Marriages at the Good Shepherd Church are normally celebrated between 12noon and 3pm on Saturdays throughout the year (but other times and days are available by prior notification to the parish priest) & are arranged with agreement of the parish priest. Diocesan Law normally requires a minimum of six months notice in order to enable all necessary arrangements and preparation to be made. All couples will be expected to attend a marriage preparation course. If you or your intended spouse have ever entered a previous union you must speak to Fr Philipp before proceeding.

## Can I get married in the beautiful Church of the Good Shepherd in Woodthorpe?

Ye: If it is your regular place of worship.

Yes: If you live in the parish or have permission from your parish priest.

As a parishioner can I be married elsewhere? Parishioners wishing to marry at another church (i.e The Cathedral) in Canon Law, you must have the permission of the parish priest, before making arrangements. Please speak with Fr Philipp before approaching another church for your marriage or advise the Cathedral Dean or Priest of the church of proposed marriage of your hopes.

## Why get married in church?

Many people get married in a church because they want to recognise that marriage is a gift from God. When two people exchange their marriage vows in the presence of the church, they are not simply "joined together" in the married state, but the Eternal Father gives them a special grace to support each other in their union. Marriage becomes a Sacrament of God because of this, and as such cannot be broken by human means. **Jesus Himself said, "that which God has joined, let no man put asunder"**

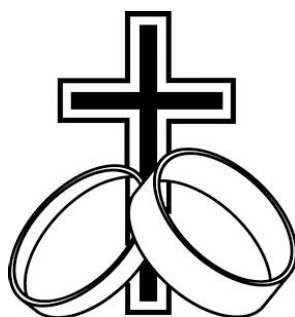
Marriage is therefore a lifelong commitment to each other and to the eternal Father and has its fulfilment in the Kingdom of Heaven. It is not something to be embarked upon without some very serious thought and consideration. When you get married you will have a lot of Sacrifices to make, but many blessings also to receive.

## Marriage Preparation Course

Each year we run a Marriage Preparation Course which is run by Fr Philipp who will initially meet with the couple informally to share the Spiritual requirements, the necessary Church documentation and ensure civil procedure is followed to full validity of the Sacramental celebration. A team of Marriage Supporters is drawn from the parish community who meet regularly with the couples in the promotion of marriage and family life. They are from different lengths of experience of the married state and qualified experience in different disciplines. The course is run as required and according to individual need in the parish, unless some other arrangements are made in consultation with the clergy.

### The Sacrament Of Marriage

Marriage between the Baptised is a Sacrament: a sign of the Covenant of love between God and His people. By the solemn vows a couple confer this Sacrament upon each other and God gives them the Grace to be faithful to the promises they have made.



### Marriage is a Vocation

Marriage is a specific way of living out the Christian Faith. Through their faithful love and through the generous living of Christian family life, husband & wife witness to their Faith and help to strengthen & build God's family: The Church. Marriage is never a private matter and it is a sign to the world of God's presence