

Getting Married Abroad

Couples intending to get married abroad should note that they need to take extra care and time with their paperwork to make sure that the state and church requirements for their marriage are met.

You may be aware that some dioceses in Italy, Croatia and elsewhere no longer allow foreign weddings.

The Pre-Nuptial Inquiry Form needs to be completed in the presence of the priest of your parish at least six months before your wedding.

In addition, you must provide the priest with the following important details:

- The name and address of the church abroad where you intend to get married.
- The name and address of the foreign diocese where that church is located.
- The name of the priest who has agreed to celebrate the wedding with you.
- Written confirmation – a letter or at least an email – from the parish abroad, indicating that the priest is Catholic, in ‘good standing’ and agreeable for the wedding to take place.

Your local priest will forward these papers to the Diocesan Office in Mullingar. The office will ensure that all is in order and then send the documents by registered post to the diocesan office abroad where your wedding is due to take place.

The paperwork takes time to gather and process so please allow yourself adequate time to get all this done.

Alongside satisfying Church requirements, you need to be certain of the civil law requirements in the country of your proposed wedding to ensure that your marriage will be properly registered. You can do this by contacting the Department of Foreign Affairs at 01 4780822.