



weddings@churchofthesloes.ie

Policy on Church of Ireland Weddings in Killarney

It is the responsibility of Church of Ireland Clergy to ensure that weddings conducted by them in Ireland have an overtly spiritual and religious nature. Therefore most weddings should take place in a Church building. However, in some instances weddings may take place in other places as long as this principle is adhered to; ie it is a religious ceremony that seeks to maintain a ongoing connection with the Church and with God. Clergy cannot, by law, conduct civil ceremonies. Outdoor wedding services are subject to the weather (which can be very wet here in Killarney!); the Church building should be booked as a standby on the day.

A fee is due to the Church for the booking of a wedding in the Church building. A reduced fee is due to the Church for weddings in other venues; the venue may also charge separately. The officiant is due a standard fee in either case. Details are available on application. A Church wedding will incur other expenses: flowers, music ...

It is also the policy of the Church to require the couple to undertake a *Marriage Preparation Course*. For couples travelling to Killarney from abroad it would be usual to have made a prior visit in order to complete this day course. If this is not feasible then alternative preparation arrangements should be discussed.

Because a wedding in whatever venue, conducted by Clergy, is a religious ceremony and an act of worship of God it is important to consider the religious preferences of the couple. Any Episcopalian, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, or such like is recognised as being in formal relationship with the Church of Ireland. Any person of Roman Catholic or Orthodox or Pentecostal persuasion is welcomed provided they themselves are happy to be married according to the rites of the Anglican Church. A person who follows another Faith, eg Islam, or indeed who is atheist, must have a clear conscience on the matter of a Christian Wedding ceremony (every effort will be made to treat the other faith of that person honourably).

Marriage is a precious institution and a holy commitment to each other and to God, in the full knowledge of human frailty. The dignity of the ceremony, wherever it is conducted, must reflect humanity's sacred nature and express the joy of commitment.

If you wish to proceed on these terms, contact Revd Simon J Lumby (email above)