



Letter of Welcome and Introduction to The Weddings Policy of the Parish of Lisdoonvarna and Kilshanny

PARISH PRIEST
THE RECTORY, LISDOONVARNA, CO. CLARE

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a chairde,

First of all, I offer my sincere congratulations to you both for finding each other, for loving each other, and for wanting to ask the Risen Lord Jesus to strengthen and supercharge your love with the power of his divine love by raising your union to the dignity of a Christian sacrament.

You are probably reading these pages because you are enquiring about the possibility of getting married in one of the four beautiful Churches of this parish:

Corpus Christi Church in Lisdoonvarna,
Saint Augustine's Church in Kilshanny,
Holy Rosary Church in Doolin or
Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Toovahera.

I would certainly like to guide and help you as much as I can in discerning if this is going to be a possibility for you, and to do this properly I need to share with you some key considerations.

First of all, if the bride or groom are resident, practicing, and contributing parishioners of this parish, everything possible will be done to help book, plan and arrange a beautiful, prayerful Catholic wedding for you on the date of your choosing, in your local Church, and with your own Celebrant/Solemniser or with the Parish Priest of this parish or his delegate.

As you know, our parish is situated in one of the most beautiful parts of Ireland and attracts huge numbers of tourists and visitors every year. We try to make them all feel very welcome when they come to share in Holy Mass with us on Sundays and weekdays. However, being so close to the Cliffs of Moher, the Burren, the Aran Islands and other spectacular attractions means that we get very many wedding requests from outside our parish. As this is a large parish which only has one priest it is not possible for us to accept every request for weddings from people who are not parishioners.

However, weddings of non-parishioners are welcome here when it is established, with the help of the couple's local priest, that a couple understands the sacrament and are practicing their Catholic faith. In these cases it is best if the couple can also bring their own priest friend or family member to serve as Celebrant/Solemniser. If this is not possible, and if a wedding is accepted, the Parish Priest here, or an invited priest substitute, may be able to help. Special donations will be required for booking such external non-parishioner weddings as a fair contribution to the upkeep of the Church, the expansion of administrative back-up services,

insurance and also for the provision of a Celebrant/Solemniser if the couple do not bring their own.

I hope that these considerations are helpful to you in understanding the practical and pastoral issues that our parish must face as we deal with so many wedding requests. If you decide to proceed with making a wedding booking request please read *The Weddings Policy of the Parish of Lisdoonvarna and Kilshanny* and then return the *Weddings Booking Request* form to me as soon as possible along with the accompanying documents and charitable offering to maintain the Church and to help support our parish.

I will then get back to you as soon as possible to let you know if your request can be accepted or not.

In the meantime please be sure of my prayers for you both as you prepare yourselves spiritually to become lifelong sacraments to the world of the kind of love that the Lord has for us all. Is mise,

le beannachtaí

Parish Priest of Lisdoonvarna and Kilshanny

August 2021