

## PARISH OF ST. SWITHUN WELLS

### Churches

Holy Cross, Eastleigh  
St. Edward the Confessor, Chandler's Ford  
St. Joseph's, Romsey  
St. Andrew's, North Baddesley  
St. Swithun Wells, Fair Oak  
Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Bishop's Waltham

### Parish Priest

Father Raffaele Cossa  
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## *Wedding Arrangements in the Parish of St Swithun Wells 2025-2026*

If you live in the Parish and would like to get married either in one of the Parish's churches or in a catholic church outside the Parish you will need to contact the priest at least 6 months before the date of marriage and preferably a year before. The three requirements for marriage in the Catholic Church are:

1. Completion of **marriage paperwork** with the priest (with supporting documents as necessary);
2. Completion of a **marriage preparation** course.
3. Completion of the **civil requirements** through the local Registrar's Office (Marriage Schedule)

### Marriage Paperwork

The marriage paperwork will involve an initial meeting with the priest who will help you fill out a form giving the necessary details. He will also tell you the supporting documentation which will be needed. This will include:

- a) A recently issued copy of your Catholic Baptismal Certificate (note that to be married in a Catholic Church one of you at least must be a Catholic). This cannot be a copy of the original Baptismal Certificate but a new one to be asked in the Church where you were baptised. Ask for a **Baptismal Certificate for marriage purpose**.
- b) **Confirmation Certificate** (if you are confirmed). This can be a copy of the original one you have at home. If you don't have it, ask for a new Confirmation Certificate in the Parish where you were confirmed.
- c) **Declaration of Freedom**. This is a declaration made by an individual confirming that they have never been through any form of marriage, civil or religious. Declaration of Freedom must be made **in the presence of a solicitor**.
- d) Some **Evidence of your Baptism** if you are baptised in a non-Catholic Christian denomination.

## Marriage Preparation

The marriage preparation consists of some sessions with the priest and the other couples getting married setting out the particular position of the Catholic Church on marriage as a Vocation and a Sacrament.

### Marriage Preparation dates 2025-2026

Sundays 4pm-6.30pm in Holy Cross (53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh) Meeting and Mass

12<sup>th</sup> October, 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 18<sup>th</sup> January, 15<sup>th</sup> February, 1<sup>st</sup> March, 26<sup>th</sup> April

## Civil Requirements

You will need to give notice at the local Registry Office from 12 months before the date of your wedding but no later than 28 days before your wedding. The Registry Office will provide the Marriage Schedule which should be given to the priest or given to the Authorised Person at your wedding rehearsal.

Each church in the Parish has its own Authorised Persons for the civil registration of your marriage. On the day of your wedding you, your witnesses and the Authorised Person will sign the Marriage Schedule. Your Marriage Certificate will be available after 1 month.

## Church Arrangements (for Marriages in the Parish)

The priest will discuss with you both the wedding liturgy and the choice of readings, prayers and church music. He will discuss with you also the arrangements for organists/music and for church flowers as well as photographs and the use of confetti. It is normal to arrange a wedding rehearsal at the church a few days before your wedding.

## Wedding expenses

The following are suggested amounts to cover the costs to the church and the associated fees for Authorised Person, organist/flower arranger etc. If these might cause difficulty for you please speak to the priest.

Church fees and administration (including Marriage Preparation)	Free donation
Priest or Deacon's stipend – suggested donation	£100.00
Authorised Person's fee (statutory)	£86.00 <sup>^</sup>
Church Organist (if required - approx)	£100.00*
Church flowers (if required - approx)	£150.00- £200.00*

<sup>^</sup> This is an amount laid down in civil law and should be paid direct to the Authorised Person either in cash or cheque.

\* To be agreed with organist/flower organiser and paid direct to them.