



# 7 STEPS TO CREATE YOUR *Wedding Mass Booklet*

## 1. AS A COUPLE, DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON YOUR *“Wish List”*

There are readings, psalms and songs that are typically used in Catholic Nuptial Masses. Spend some time together researching these – you might find some that stand out to you as a couple and you would like to include them in your Nuptial Mass.

Your church and/or priest will also have guidelines on what is acceptable or not acceptable e.g. Catholic churches generally will not permit non-Christian songs to be played at church, while other churches will not permit anything other than Catholic hymns. If you haven't already been given these guidelines, ask your church or priest for them.

That being said, you and your fiancée may have a wish list of certain readings/psalms/songs that have special meaning to you (and may not be “typical” at Catholic Nuptial Masses). Note these down to discuss with your priest.

## 2. MEET WITH YOUR *Priest* (CELEBRANT)

*Tip! Bring a copy of a Wedding Booklet from another wedding (or ask your priest if he has one available).*

Don't worry about knowing very little about planning your Nuptial Mass! Your priest should be very familiar with this process and should be able to provide a lot of guidance.

It is very useful to have a Wedding Mass Booklet to go through together with your priest. He will be able to walk you through the Nuptial Mass (and indicate changes to the order of service if required), explain the do's and don'ts and you can discuss your wish list.

By the end of your meeting, you should have a good idea of what your Nuptial Mass will be like, including the readings, psalm and songs. At the very least, you will have some guidelines to think about as you select the items for your Mass. This will help you with the content of your booklet.

3. PREPARE A DRAFT OF YOUR  
BOOKLET: *Content*

Note! You might decide to do steps 3, 5 & 6 at the same time.

Type up the content of your booklet from your discussions with your priest and the decisions you have made as a couple.

4. *Check* WITH YOUR PRIEST

Once you've created your first draft and included all the content (i.e. readings/psalm/songs), show it to your priest for feedback. This is especially important if you have some explanations of the Mass in your booklet.

5. PREPARE YOUR BOOKLET:  
*Template*

Begin creating your wedding booklet. You can do this in a number of ways (the options range from the least effort and most expensive, to the most effort and least expensive):

**Engage a graphic designer**

A graphic designer can help you design your booklet to your specifications. If you're engaging a graphic designer, come prepared with ideas to speed up the discussion.

**Use a template**

A template contains text, font and images – so all you need to do is to customise it to your needs and get it printed.

A template could be printed (the company will print the booklets for you) or digital (you will organise the printing of the booklets). Digital templates can come in various formats (Microsoft Word etc.) so ensure that the format is compatible with your computer.

You will be able to customise the text, font and images of the template to varying degrees (e.g. some may only let you change the text but not the font or alignment of the text).

A simple Google search will bring up some websites where you can download templates for free or purchase them. E.g. Etsy.com.

**Start from scratch**

If you're confident in graphic design or keen to try your hand at it then you might decide to start from scratch. Don't worry if you don't have applications like Photoshop or Adobe Acrobat – basic applications like Microsoft Word work just as well.

*Tip! Find a copy of a wedding Mass booklet from another wedding to help with your content, or download a free wedding Mass booklet template online to get you started.*

## 6. *Design* YOUR BOOKLET

There are plenty of resources to use if you are using a basic template or creating your booklet from scratch and want to change the design of it.

*Tip! Look on websites like Pinterest or Etsy for ideas on how to design your booklet.*

### **Font**

A simple Google search will bring up websites from which you can download fonts for free or purchase them. They also include instructions to install and use them. (E.g. Free: Font Squirrel, 1001 Fonts; Purchase: Creative Market, Font Shop)

### **Images**

A simple Google search will bring up websites from which you can download images for free or purchase them. They also include instructions to install and use them. (E.g. Purchase: Creative Market)

*Tip! If you are using Microsoft Word, images can be inserted into your document without shifting the text. Simply right click on the image, Wrap Text = None, Arrange = Bring in Front of Text.*

## 7. *Print* YOUR BOOKLETS

You can either print your booklets yourself or engage a printing company.

### **Do it yourself**

Printing a booklet can be tricky. Luckily there are websites that provide instructions for how to do this.

A simple Google search should provide guidance. E.g. search for "Create a booklet or book in Microsoft Word".

### **Printing company**

You may wish to engage a printing company to print your booklets for you. Remember to request for quotes from multiple printing companies so you get the best price.

They will need to know things such as: size of booklet, number of pages, colour/black and white, colour of paper, thickness of pages/covering page, number of booklets etc.