

# International Catholic Weddings.

In the Church of Saint Francis Xavier, De Krijtberg, in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, we get many requests for international Catholic Weddings. Below are a few guidelines

It is our experience that couples who are preparing to get married often underestimate the length and complexity of the procedures.

**For all Catholic Church weddings in The Netherlands the following rules apply:**

- **if you have been married before, this previous wedding has to be annulled by the Church. Even when you married at the town hall and not in a Church. This process may take more than a year.**
- **a civil wedding has to take place before a Church wedding can take place. This is Dutch national law – it is non-negotiable.**
- **Catholics who want to get married have to show a recent certificate of Baptism.**

A. Both bride and groom are baptised Catholics, they live in The Netherlands; neither of them has been married before. This is easy, preparation will take more than half a year. It is probable that you can get married in De Krijtberg. Welcome!

B. Both partners live in The Netherlands. One partner is a baptised Catholic, the other is Protestant, has another religion or no religion. We will have to ask permission from the bishop. It is very well possible, we will be happy to assist. It will take time - the preparation may take more than six months. Welcome!

C. The partners live abroad, and want to get married in The Netherlands. You will need permission from the bishop of the place where you live. The priest of your local parish can help you with that. This permission cannot be arranged from Amsterdam. If one of the partners is not Catholic the bishop may refuse permission (this happened recently in Colombia, Venezuela, Italy, South Korea): there is nothing we can do about that. The bishop may also demand that the Catholic partner has received the sacrament of confirmation (f.i. UK, Italy, Spain).

If you ask a priest from De Krijtberg the preparation has to be done in Amsterdam in person - this cannot be done by Zoom. If that is not possible: bring your own priest.

D. The partners live in The Netherlands and want to get married abroad. This is possible, but complicated. It requires a lot of paperwork. If you are a member of De Krijtberg community we will be happy to help you. You are a member when you are a volunteer, if you have contributed financially or otherwise during at least two years, if you

have followed a course or done a retreat with us, or if you are a member of the Saturday evening youth group. If you are not a member of De Krijtberg community we refer you to the priest of your own parish in The Netherlands [www.zoekparochie.nl](http://www.zoekparochie.nl).

E. Marriage Course or “pre-Cana”

When you want to get married abroad and you live in The Netherlands, it is possible that the parish priest of the place of your wedding asks you to do a pre-marriage course in The Netherlands. De Krijtberg does not offer that possibility. These courses are offered by Father Rafael Ojeda from Our lady’s Church at Keizersgracht in Amsterdam. Sign up in time, otherwise you may be too late: [rector@olvkerk.nl](mailto:rector@olvkerk.nl)

F. Visiting priests and deacons.

We welcome Catholic priests and deacons from abroad or from The Netherlands to bless weddings in De Krijtberg. The visiting priest or deacon will have to take upon him the paperwork. He will not receive a stipend from De Krijtberg Church.

G. We recognize baptismal certificates in other languages.

If somebody from for instance Brasil wants to get married we recognize a baptismal certificate in Portuguese. Our Baptismal certificates are in Dutch or upon request in Latin.

H. Wedding planners.

We do not answer calls from wedding planners. We talk to bride and groom.

I. When a couple asks us to start an administrative procedure we may ask a non-refundable deposit of 300 Euros. We cannot guarantee that the procedure will be successful. We can only submit requests, we are never certain that permission will be granted.

J. We do not allow choirs or musicians to bring in a podium, or electronic equipment like microphones, amplifiers, lights.

We have a professional equipment in place for streaming which can be used for weddings.

K. Contact details: Sacristan: Mr Gerwin Roffel [koster@krijtberg.nl](mailto:koster@krijtberg.nl)

Rector: Father Jan Stuyt SJ [rector@krijtberg.nl](mailto:rector@krijtberg.nl)

v. 2 January 2023