

These courses draw on your family experiences and family backgrounds to identify strengths and challenges that you may see as important to your marriage. On completion of the 3 parts of our courses you will receive a certificate of attendance.

### Post Marriage Opportunities Anniversary Workshops

These are held throughout the year as a consolidation of the marriage preparation courses. They are 4 hours long and usually held on the weekend. They are an opportunity to take time out of your busy lives to re-focus on each other your relationship, communication and Marriage goals.

### TEAMS Notre Dame Group

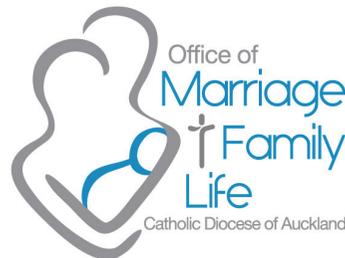
This is an opportunity for you to join a small couples group of about 3-4 like minded married couples who become over time great faith companions. A meal is shared, a prayer is said. The responsibility for the group is collective. It is a monthly opportunity to stay focused on each other and how having support enhances the longevity of your marriage. It is a very successful support programme approved by Pope Francis.

### Interested in registering for our courses?

- Register via our web page [www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/marriage-family-life/our-courses/](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/marriage-family-life/our-courses/)
- Complete all fields of the registration – remembering to enter your full legal names (as on your passport).
- If you are having an arranged marriage register online and then phone the office 09 360 3025.
- Visit your Priest and let him know about your marriage intentions, this is especially important if you are getting married overseas.
- Once you register you will receive a confirmation email if you do not receive this check your spam folder and then check your email address is correct as typos for online bookings are common.

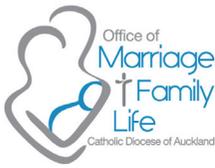
### The Art of Marriage

A good marriage must be created.  
In marriage the little things are the big things.  
It is never being too old to hold hands.  
It is remembering to say 'I love you' at least once each day.  
It is never going to sleep angry.  
It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives.  
It is standing together and facing the world.  
It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family.  
It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.  
It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.  
It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow.  
It is a common search for the good and the beautiful.  
It is not only marrying the right person.  
It is being the right partner.



To find out more or to book a course:  
[www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz)

For more information:  
[marriageandfamily@cda.org.nz](mailto:marriageandfamily@cda.org.nz)  
09 360 3025



# Getting Married



## PRE-MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSES

Catholic Diocese of Auckland

*A wedding is a day,  
a marriage is a lifetime*

The Catholic Church congratulates you on your decision to marry and warmly invites you to attend the Marriage Preparation Programme.

At your wedding you will make a commitment 'to promise to be true to each other, in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, and to love and honour each other all the days of your life.

Our aim is to assist you by sharing knowledge and skills to enable you to build further a solid foundation for a lasting marriage.

What our courses offer you both is the opportunity to assist you to learn how to communicate powerfully with each other. Each part of the course builds on the next until completion of part 3, like building blocks. We will coach you in the skills needed to prepare for marriage, unravel the mystery of a successful marriage and how to keep loving the person you married over and over again. Our courses are realistic and down to

**“Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh.”**

— Genesis 2:24



**True love is about growing as a couple,  
Learning about each other,  
And never giving up on each other.**

earth, that is why all of our courses are run by married couples, experienced in the life skills of what it means to be married, its challenges and blessings.

We are a Team of volunteer marriage educators who have been married for longer than 10 years and truly enjoy taking you through the journey of discovery and powerful communication; based on honesty, respect, compassion and forgiveness.

Our aim is a gentle support to walk alongside you on your marriage journey, right the way through until you have been married for 7 years and beyond. It will allow you the freedom to design and redesign the marriage you want, year after year. We do this by sharing research, knowledge and examples of how you may want your communication to work. We run Anniversary Workshops and also offer couples married for 1 year plus the opportunity to join a TEAMS of Notre Dame Group to nourish and enrich your marriage. All of this ongoing support is completely optional.

We have a number of Spiritual Directors who comprise of Lay Priests and Monsignors who attend some of the Love is a Decision Part 3 course. This is a valuable and necessary part of the course as it allows you to get clarity and ask questions.

Our courses are not just for Catholics we welcome and embrace all denominations and secular peoples.

Our Marriage Preparation Courses are 3 in 1 course, known as Part 1, 2 and 3

## Marriage Preparation Programme

### Part I

This is a shared evening with other engaged (or thinking of getting engaged) couples coming together to learn more about marriage preparation. It is a relaxed inclusive evening. Here you will be invited to individually complete a research based activity known as an inventory where you answer the most appropriate statement for you. This is a useful tool for you as a couple to discover your areas of strengths, challenges and areas for growth.

### Part 2

Building on from part 1 we are starting to piece the communication jigsaw together. You now have the opportunity to review your answers of the activity you completed in part 1, in the homes of an experienced married couple known as a Marriage Educator.

This usually takes about 1-2 hours and is usually in the evening however some of our Educators have these follow up sessions in the day on the weekend. There is a good variety and selection of sessions available. Booking early assures this. The feedback we get from part 2 is overwhelmingly positive and often couples want more of this type of input.

### Part 3

These are adult education sessions of about 14 hours long spread over either 6 week nights or weekends again we have a wide variety of choices to suit but you have to register early. We recommend 1 year in advance of your wedding date.