

POLICY 2.1.4 The Use of Catholic Churches and Church Sites for Non-Catholic Services

As a rule, Catholic churches are for Catholic services. It happens occasionally in the Archdiocese that a non-Catholic asks to use the Catholic church in the community for a wedding or a funeral or other sacred ritual. In many instances a larger than usual attendance is anticipated, and the Catholic church is the largest such venue in the community. The use of multimedia will respect the policies of the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan (see policy ...)

1. For public services

In general, there is no prohibition to such fraternal sharing of facilities. We must ensure, at the same time, that the celebration does not cause confusion in people's minds about the Catholic Church's position on the rite that is being celebrated, even though it is acknowledged not to be a Catholic service.

In such circumstances, permission is always to be sought from the Chancellor, the Vicar General or the Archbishop. No activity shall take place in the sanctuary which is incompatible with ~~the~~ its sacred nature. Noting the sacredness of what takes place on the altar, the altar should not be used.

The altar is never to be used outside of the Catholic Mass.

When possible, the Blessed Sacrament should be transferred to the Sacristy or another dignified place.

2. For funerals

If the intended use of the Catholic church is for a funeral, no application form is needed. The parish priest or other responsible person need only contact the Chancellor, Vicar General or Archbishop and provide the details of the proposed funeral.

When possible, the Blessed Sacrament should be transferred to the Sacristy or another dignified place.

3. For marriages

In the case of a wedding ceremony, the parish priest or Catholic lay minister who brings forward such a request must first make a sufficient inquiry to ensure that the proposed wedding is a valid wedding in the eyes of the Church. Therefore:

- Neither the bride nor the groom can be a baptized Catholic.
- Neither the bride nor the groom should have been married previously, without having received a declaration of nullity of marriage if the spouse is still living.
- This must be a heterosexual union; the bride must be assigned female at birth and the groom must be assigned male at birth and living as their assigned genders.

The application form, Form 2.1.4.a, must also be completed and submitted to the Chancellor, Vicar General or Archbishop for a final decision.

When possible, the Blessed Sacrament should be transferred to the Sacristy or another dignified place.

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Application to Use a Catholic Church or Church Site for a Non-Catholic Service

If the intended use of the Catholic church is for a wedding, the following information must be provided to the Chancellor, the Vicar General or the Archbishop:

Groom	
Family Name: _____	Given name: _____
Baptism: Church: _____	Town: _____
Present religious affiliation: _____	
Marital Status: ☐ Never married ☐ Divorced ☐ Widower	
If previously married, please provide details and all relevant documents:	

Father's full name: _____ Religion: _____	
Mother's full maiden name: _____ Religion: _____	
Bride	
Family Name: _____	Given name: _____
Baptism: Church: _____	Town: _____
Present religious affiliation: _____	
Marital Status: ☐ Never married ☐ Divorced ☐ Widower	
If previously married, please provide details and all relevant documents:	

Father's full name: _____ Religion: _____	
Mother's full maiden name: _____ Religion: _____	

Contact information for minister who will be presiding at the wedding:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Date and time of the wedding ceremony: _____

Signature of Parish Priest/Responsible Lay Minister

Date

