

Anglican – Roman Catholic Marriage

Copies of *Pastoral Guidelines for Inter-Church Marriages between Anglicans and Roman Catholics in Canada* may be purchased from the Anglican Book Centre.

1. This document does not make any changes in the current canonical requirements in our churches. It simply says what we can do under existing rules together if we have the will and the pastoral concern to work cooperatively. It represents an agreed pastoral approach endorsed by the official body of bishops in both of our churches.
2. Each pastor should become familiar with the document and, wherever possible, discuss it with the neighbouring Roman Catholic priest even before an actual request for a wedding has been made.

(It ought not to be assumed, however, that every Roman Catholic priest will have received the document, for the church's method of communicating the existence of the document will not necessarily have been the same as ours.)

3. Use this document as a basis for discussion at an Anglican/Roman Catholic clergy day, if such is planned, and in dialogue including lay people.
4. Expect that clergy of both churches will live up to these guidelines just as the bishops of both churches have agreed to support them.
5. If difficulties in mutual cooperation should occur, inform your bishop, who will contact the Roman Catholic bishop to assist in resolving the difficulty.
7. Only as we interpret these guidelines lovingly will our ministry to deserving couples help them to experience a truly Christian marriage.

Competition and conflict between denominations over the celebration of a marriage, or the continuing care for the inter-church family, seriously affect a good pastoral relationship. The times in which we live require an openness, trust and new style of collaboration.

