



Planning Your Wedding

**ORATORY OF ST FINBARR
GOUGANE BARRA**

— Uibh Laoire Parish —



INFORMATION and GUIDELINES

THE STORY OF GOUGANE BARRA

The hallowed shrine of Saint Finbarr
dates back to the sixth century.

Here the saint communed with God.

The surrounding mountains were his cloister
and the lake was for him the mirror of God's grandeur.

Stone cells commemorate his hermitage.

From here he journeyed the river-way of the Lee
to become the first bishop and founder
of the church and city of Cork.

He died in 623 AD

and his feast-day is celebrated
on September the 25th

*— Text inscribed at the entrance to the Island,
attributed to Timothy Manning,
Cardinal Archbishop of Los Angeles,
native of Uibh Laoire parish.
Each year, pilgrims gather at Gougane
on the Sunday following 25 September
to honour St Finbarr and ask for his blessing.*

**THIS IS A HOLY PLACE.
HERE MAY YOU,
PILGRIM AND VISITOR,
FIND PEACE
AND THE LOVE OF THE LORD**

We are delighted that you are considering St Finbarr's Oratory for your wedding. This intimate chapel is built on an island in Gougane Barra Lake, connected to the mainland by a causeway.

THE FIRST THREE THINGS TO DO

1. Complete and return the booking form to the Gougane Weddings Office, Carrigeigh, Inchigeela, Macroom, Co Cork. Once the booking form is returned and all is in order, the date you request may be confirmed by the Bookings Secretary. She may be contacted at (+353) 87 784 2534 or by email at: stfinbarrsoratory@gmail.com

2. Inform your local priest of your intention to marry (i.e. one of the priests in the parish where you live). Do this up to a year before the wedding, to allow for the preparation of documents. Your local priest will help you prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage. You must give him at least three months notice of your marriage.

3. Arrange a celebrant for your wedding. Gougane Barra has no resident priest, so couples must engage the services of a priest who will conduct the marriage celebration for them.

COUNTDOWN TO YOUR MARRIAGE

Up to two years in advance

Send your booking form to the Weddings Office, Carrigeigh, Inchigeela, Macroom, Co Cork (Ireland) to reserve your wedding date. Bookings are accepted for 12 noon, 2pm or 4pm, Monday to Friday and for 12 noon or 2 pm on Saturdays. Marriages are not celebrated on Sundays, church holydays or in the second half of Holy Week.

At least one year before your marriage

Make contact with your local priest. He will supervise your marriage preparations, including your pre-marriage course. He will also guide you through the essential paperwork. It is his role to send the pre-nuptial enquiry forms to Gougane Barra. These forms need to arrive **at least six weeks before your**

wedding day, at this address:

Weddings Office, Carrigleigh, Inchigeela, Macroom, Co Cork.

PLEASE NOTE:

- If you live outside Ireland, your documents must be sent by your priest via the Diocesan Office or Chancellery of the diocese in which you are resident. They are then sent to The Diocesan Secretary, Cork & Ross Offices, Redemption Road, Cork, Ireland, who will send the papers on.
- Those who live outside Ireland may pay their fees by electronic money transfer: details available from the Booking Secretary.
- Mixed Marriage (between Catholic and non-RC parties): All documents for a mixed marriage are prepared by the priest of the Catholic party.
- If either of you has been married previously, civilly or in church, contact your priest: a church marriage may not be possible in such circumstances.

Three months notice is required by the State

To contract a valid marriage in the Republic of Ireland, the parties to the marriage must observe the marriage notification process:

- See www.groireland.ie — ‘Getting Married’ section.

At least six weeks before your marriage

Pay the wedding fee for St Finbarr’s Oratory. Make your cheque out to **Inchigeela Parochial Account** and post it to the Weddings Office, Carrigleigh, Inchigeela, Macroom, Co Cork.

If the church fee is not received a month in advance of the wedding date, the wedding is presumed to have been called off.

Your Wedding Day

The Oratory of St Finbarr is yours for two hours on your wedding day (from 30 minutes before your wedding’s scheduled starting time to 90 minutes after that time.). Photos must be completed within that two-hour period. All your party must have left the island by the end of your allocated time. Another marriage may follow yours — so it is important that each ceremony takes place on time and that the church is vacated promptly.

Brides are not to be more than 10 minutes late. In extreme circumstances, where this has not been complied with, the Sacristan may decide to postpone your ceremony until the wedding(s) scheduled to follow it is/are completed.

- Please note that St Finbarr's Oratory is an intimate space, holding 70 people at the maximum (seating available for no more than 40).
- Alcohol, smoking and the use of confetti in the vicinity of the oratory are strictly forbidden.
- Please take away all that you have brought with you when your ceremony is over (boxes, leaflets etc). Thanks!

THE CEREMONY

PRIEST

You may invite any priest in good standing in the Diocese of Cork & Ross to officiate at your marriage. Your priest must be a recognised solemniser of marriages in Ireland: if he is not, you are asked to contact the Diocesan Office, Redemption Road, Cork (Tel 021 430 1717) so that the process of getting him added on a temporary basis can begin.

Your marriage may take place within or outside the Mass. It is up to the couple to plan the liturgy, with the help of the officiating priest. Marriage outside of Mass is recommended in cases of mixed marriages.

In all cases, the Verbal Declaration of 'No Civil Impediment' is to be included, if the marriage is to be valid civilly. This may only be omitted if it has been previously given by the couple in the presence of the priest and their witnesses within the previous 48 hours.

MUSIC

Music is particularly appropriate at weddings. Discuss your choices with the priest who will celebrate your marriage. Naturally, only religious music is used in the church: a large selection is available.

READINGS & PRAYERS

You may select the readings and prayers for the marriage ceremony, from the wedding liturgy of the Roman Catholic Church. A comprehensive overview is given on the Cork and Ross diocesan website:

www.corkandross.org > Sacraments > Marriage

You may also find helpful this website: www.gettingmarried.ie

PHOTOS / VIDEOS

Photographers and videographers must exercise discretion, as space is limited in the oratory. They should consult the priest conducting the service beforehand and respect his wishes.

ALTAR SERVERS

Couples are welcome to appoint altar servers to assist at their wedding. However, in all cases, these children must be accompanied by their parents in the sacristy before and after the ceremony, in line with child protection procedures in Uibh Laoire Parish. A sign-in book in the sacristy is to be signed by the servers, parents, sacristan and priest.

- Please note that altar servers must bring their robes with them.

DECORATION

Flowers mirror the beauty of God's creation and are welcome at St Finbarr's Oratory, but particular rules apply here:

- No florist tape or paste may be placed on walls or seats.
- Candles may not be lit on windowsills

It would be wise to discuss the flower arrangements for your wedding in advance with the Sacristan. The photo on the back cover of this leaflet gives an indication of the scope for flowers in the limited space of the oratory.

CHURCH OFFERINGS

A fee of €300 is required to cover the running expenses of the church, in addition to the €100 Booking Fee couples pay to reserve their wedding date (€400 in total). This fee is to help towards the cost of maintaining the historic island containing St Finbarr's Oratory: contributions in addition to the above would be much appreciated.

Couples make their own arrangements with the priest they invite to preside at their wedding, recognising the time he gives to the celebration and the mileage travelled.

We hope you enjoy your wedding day at Gougane Barra and pray God's blessings on you, every day of your married life.

GOUGANE BARRA

by J J Callanan
1795-1829

*There is a green island in lone Gougane Barra,
Where Allua of songs rushes forth as an arrow;
In deep-valley'd Desmond - a thousand wild fountains
Come down to that lake from their homes in the mountains.*





Interior, St Finbarr's Oratory, Gougane Barra

If you have further questions,
Please contact the Bookings Secretary at
stfinbarrsoratory@gmail.com

Published at the Gougane Barra Weddings Office,
Carrigeigh, Inchigeela, Macroom, Co Cork, Ireland.