Preparing For Marriage
Because of the many changes within modern societies, preparation for marriage and family life is more than ever necessary.

When a woman and man marry they bring with them the hopes, dreams, common sense, intelligence, courage, confidence and goodwill that attracted them to each other in the first place.
They also bring to the marriage any unresolved issues they will have to face during their time together.

Good marriage preparation challenges couples to examine and explore together the feelings, values and ideas that will shape their lives together.

Couples can better prepare themselves for married life by looking at a number of key areas.
1. Communication skills – must be able to talk about anything with each other and know that they will still be accepted

2. Learn how to fight fair – how to work through problem areas constructively and resolve differences before bedtime

3. Be prepared to accept change – 21st century things are changing rapidly: work, careers, roles etc
4. Learn to accept in-laws – important part of spouse’s life – strongly influence spouse

5. Discuss goals about children – when, how many, which religion

6. Exploring life-goals – hopes and dreams, how to cope when things go wrong

7. Realising marriage is for life despite the culture of our day
8. Learn to deal with land mines – talking about the past may be difficult but it is what shapes us. Anything that is unresolved could undermine the relationship.

9. Make marriage intimate – not just physically but by sharing feelings, conflicts working together and talking about ideas.
10. Place God at the centre – openness to God working in our lives makes the difference. God is at the heart of a marriage, guiding a couple through the big and the small changes. Couples need to find ways to share faith and beliefs with each other.
Practical Arrangements

- Contact their parish months in advance
- Participate in a marriage preparation programme
- Have copies of baptismal records
- Arrange an interview with a priest
- Learn about and help plan the wedding liturgy