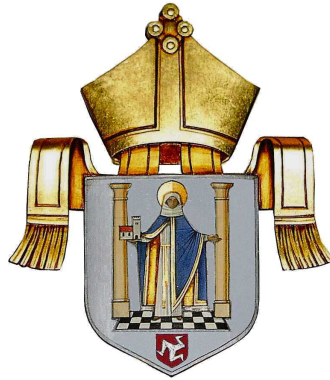


The Diocese of Sodor and Man
Together making Christ visible



**APPLICATION TO THE BISHOP
for a
SPECIAL MARRIAGE LICENCE**

- **The Couple should complete and sign Form SL1 in CAPITAL LETTERS. *Please ensure that the spelling of names and addresses is clear.***

Before completing the form, the couple must consult the minister whom they wish to officiate at the wedding. If that minister is not the parish priest, the agreement of the parish priest is required.

Couples should note that the granting of Special Marriage Licences is within the discretion of the Bishop. They should await the outcome of their application before committing themselves to arrangements.

- **The Officiating Minister should complete and sign Form SL2.**
- **If either party to the marriage lives outside the Isle of Man, Form SL3 should be completed and signed.**
- **Forms SL1 and SL2 (with SL3 if applicable) are to be sent with the fee (payable to 'Sodor & Man Diocesan Registry') to:**

**Mrs Louise Connacher, Diocesan Registrar
Provincial & Diocesan Registry
Stamford House
Piccadilly
YORK YO1 9PP**

**Telephone: (01904) 623487
Email: registrar@sodorandman.im**

Please ensure that all the forms and the fee are sent in a single mailing.

Electronic copies and emailed forms are not acceptable.

Please address any queries to the Diocesan Registrar.

Form SL1
APPLICATION BY THE COUPLE
for a Special Marriage Licence

	Please use CAPITAL LETTERS	Man	Woman
1	CHRISTIAN NAMES IN FULL		
2	SURNAME		
3	RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS with post code		
4	ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH in which residential address is situate		
5	E-mail address		
6	Telephone number (Home / Work / Mobile)		
7	NATIONALITY <i>See note below.¹</i>		
8	DATE OF BIRTH		
9	PLACE OF BIRTH		
10	OCCUPATION		
11	FATHER'S FULL NAME ²		
12	FATHER'S OCCUPATION ³		
13	MOTHER'S FULL NAME ²		
14	MOTHER'S OCCUPATION ³		
15	DATE of intended marriage		
16	CHURCH, CHAPEL or other location where marriage is proposed to take place		
	ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH in which that church, chapel or other location is situate.		

¹Please enter the nationality on your passport: 'Manx' is not acceptable.

² If the father or mother has died then after the name add "(deceased)"

³ Enter a full description of the occupation of father or mother.

If father or mother has retired then after the occupation add "(retired)".

17	Condition Delete <i>four</i> in each box	1 Single 2 Widower 3 Surviving civil partner 4 Previous marriage dissolved 5 Previous civil partnership dissolved	1 Single 2 Widow 3 Surviving civil partner 4 Previous marriage dissolved 5 Previous civil partnership dissolved
18	Have you been through any form of wedding ceremony before?	Yes / No If 'No', go straight to question 20	Yes / No If 'No', go straight to question 20
19	If 'Yes' to 18, is your former spouse still alive? Delete one in each box	Yes / No	Yes / No
If 'Yes' to 19, please ensure that the minister signing form SL2 has seen the final divorce order(s) (decree(s) absolute), and explain fully to him or her the circumstances leading to the divorce(s). Please read the Guidelines on page 10.			
If 'No' to 19, please ensure that the minister signing form SL2 has seen the death certificate(s).			
20	Are you related to each other in any way?	Yes / No	
21	If related, in what way?		
22	Have you been baptized (christened)? See below. ⁴	Yes / No	Yes / No
23	Why do you wish to marry at the church you have chosen? What genuine and longstanding connection do you have with it? Are there any unusual circumstances? See the Guidelines pages 7-8.		
24	<p style="text-align: center;">To the best of my knowledge, all the information on this form is correct.</p> The information on this form will be used to complete the registers of marriage. Under section 3 of the Perjury Act 1952, if any person knowingly and wilfully makes, for the purpose of being inserted in a register of marriage, a false statement as to any particular required by law to be registered relating to a marriage, he or she is guilty of an offence and liable to custody for up to 7 years and/or an unlimited fine.		
25	Your signatures		
26	Date		

⁴It is **not** necessary to be baptized in order to marry in church because marriage is a gift of God for all humanity. However, baptism is the sign of God's commitment to you and of your commitment to Christ and his Church. Your minister will gladly tell you more.

Form SL2

STATEMENT BY THE OFFICIATING MINISTER concerning a Special Marriage Licence

1	NAME OF OFFICIATING MINISTER	
2	BENEFICE OR OTHER APPOINTMENT HELD	
3	ADDRESS	
4	E-MAIL	
5	FULL NAMES OF PARTIES WHOM YOU HAVE AGREED TO MARRY	Man:
		Woman:
6	CHURCH, CHAPEL OR LOCATION IN WHICH YOU HAVE AGREED TO MARRY THEM	
7	DATE OF THE PROPOSED MARRIAGE	
<i>If neither party has been widowed or had a previous marriage dissolved, strike through questions 8-10.</i>		
8	If one or both of the parties has had a marriage dissolved, have you seen the final divorce order(s) (decree(s) absolute)? <i>(Delete as applicable)</i>	Yes / No
9	If one or both of the parties has a former spouse still living, are you satisfied that the Bishop's criteria [page 10] have been met? <i>(Delete as applicable)</i>	Yes / No
10	If one or both of the parties has been widowed, have you seen the death certificate(s)? <i>(Delete as applicable)</i>	Yes / No
11	Are you satisfied that the parties are free to marry each other?	Yes / No
12	Has the incumbent⁵ of the proposed venue consented to the wedding taking place there? <i>(Delete as applicable)</i>	Yes / No <i>or</i>
		----- I am the incumbent

⁵Incumbent' includes 'Priest in Charge' throughout.

13	Have you consulted with the incumbent of the parish(es) in which the parties live <i>or</i> are listed on the Electoral Roll? (Delete as applicable)	Yes / No <i>or</i>			
		I am the incumbent of both parties			
14	Does that incumbent / Do those incumbents agree to the marriage taking place at the proposed venue? (Delete as applicable)	Yes / No <i>or</i>			
		I am the incumbent of both parties			
15	Will you make arrangements for the marriage registers to be available for the ceremony? (Delete two)	Yes / No <i>or</i>			
		I am the incumbent			
16	Please state why a Special Marriage Licence is required and confirm the applicants' connection with the Parish or Institution, or any other unusual circumstances which exist.				
17	Under which of the Guidelines (pages 7-8) is this application being made? (Tick appropriate box or boxes)	Category	✓	Category	✓
		7		13	
		11A		14	
		11B		After divorce	
		12			
18	What arrangements have been made for this couple to be prepared for marriage?				
19	To the best of my knowledge, all the information on this form is correct.				
20	Signature				
21	Date				

Please give this to the couple, who will send it, with their application form(s) and the fee, to the Diocesan Registrar. Please inform the couple of the current fee (shown at <http://www.gumbley.net/weddings.htm>).

Form SL3

CERTIFICATE

**in support of the parties requesting a Special Marriage Licence
of the Bishop of Sodor and Man where one or both of the
parties is not resident in the Isle of Man**

1	YOUR FULL NAME	
2	FULL ADDRESS	
3	E-MAIL ADDRESS	
4	QUALIFICATION <i>See note below.⁶</i>	
5	FULL NAMES OF PARTIES TO THE PROPOSED MARRIAGE	MAN:
		WOMAN:
6	Are the parties known to you?	Yes / No
7a	If 'Yes' to 6, for how long?	
7b	If 'No' to 6, please attach evidence that the parties are free to marry each other, (e.g. signed statements from each party).	
8	Are you satisfied that the parties are free to marry each other?	Yes / No
9	Signature	
10	Date	

⁶ You must be

- a Notary Public, **or**
- a British Consul, **or**
- a Commissioned Officer in H.M. Armed Forces, **or**
- an Anglican Cleric within Great Britain and Ireland who is authorised by law to solemnise marriages.

You must also state the appointment you hold.

GUIDELINES FOR THE GRANTING OF SPECIAL LICENCES

General

- 1 Special licences will not be granted...
 - to facilitate illegal or undesirable marriages, ***or***
 - to secure privacy or secrecy for a marriage, ***or***
 - to relax or modify generally the statutory restrictions on marriage after banns or by common licence issued by a Surrogate for Marriages.
- 2 Special licences may be used to facilitate a marriage in church which might otherwise be difficult or impossible, or to allow a marriage at Bishops court Chapel or King William's College Chapel.
- 3 **The grant of a special licence is a privilege not a right**
- 4 **Where any other legal marriage preliminary (Banns or Common Licence) is appropriate, a special licence is unlikely to be granted.**
- 5 Clergy must ensure that couples who are married by special licence should be prepared for marriage, and be assured of the support of the Church in their family life thereafter.
- 6 Due regard will be had to the extra burden which special licences impose on the parochial clergy. No application will be considered unless SL2 has been completed by the minister who is to officiate.

Sickness

- 7 Consideration will be given to the granting of a special licence for the marriage, in a hospital, hospice or at home, of a party who is chronically sick or dying; the current fee is payable.

Unconsecrated places

- 8 Special licences will not be granted for marriages —
 - at a place approved by the Registrar General for civil marriages, ***or***
 - at any other unconsecrated place, except in the case of a party who is chronically sick or dying, or in exceptional circumstances.

Consecrated buildings

- 9 Marriage in a consecrated building will not be permitted without reasonable justification, which should normally be a genuine and longstanding personal connection, determined in accordance with paragraph 11 below.
- 10 Wedding tourism is discouraged. The fact that a church or chapel is an attractive location cannot be regarded as a sufficient justification.

Parish churches and licensed chapels

- 11 A special licence is not required for marriage at a parish church or licensed chapel which is the parish church or usual place of worship of either party, or at a parish church of a parish with which either party has a qualifying connection. A special licence will not be granted for a wedding at another church or chapel unless —
 - A. one party can show a genuine and longstanding personal connection to the church or chapel and its congregation or worshipping community; ***or***

- B. the parties wish to be married by the incumbent or priest in charge because of a demonstrable strong family or other personal connection with him/her as an individual.

Former parish churches and chapels of ease

- 12 A person who is an habitual worshipper at a former parish church or chapel of ease should normally be permitted to marry there. Otherwise, the same criteria should be applied as for parish churches and licensed chapels.

Bishopscourt Chapel

- 13 A special licence may be granted for a wedding in the Chapel at Bishopscourt of:

- persons eligible to be married in Kirk Michael after banns,
- the owner,
- the father, mother, child or grandchild of the owner,
- a present member of staff at Bishopscourt,
- a child of a present member of staff.

The incumbent of the Parish of the West Coast must be consulted and counter-sign Form SL2, and should ensure that the priest conducting the wedding will undertake to provide good preparation and on-going pastoral support.

The marriage must be recorded in the marriage registers of Kirk Michael.

King William's College Chapel

- 14 A special licence may be granted for a marriage in the College Chapel of a person with a close connection to the College community:

- a current or former pupil,
- a current or former member of staff,
- a parent of a current pupil.

The incumbent of Arbory and Castletown must be consulted and counter-sign Form SL2. The Chaplain should ensure that the priest conducting the wedding, whether the Chaplain or a visiting cleric, will undertake to provide good preparation and on-going pastoral support.

The marriage must be recorded in the marriage registers of St Mary's on the Harbour, Castletown.

Notes to the Clergy

1. When a marriage by special licence has been solemnised, the minister may give the original licence to the couple providing that he or she endorses it in permanent ink, as follows: ***Marriage solemnized on [date] at [place] by me, [signature.]*** The copy licence must be returned, identically endorsed, to the Diocesan Registrar.
2. Clergy and parishes are warmly encouraged to contact the Bishop's Office for further guidance and resources.
3. In order to establish a contact between couples and the local Anglican parish near to their married home, please use *A Church Near You*: <http://www.achurchnearyou.com>

A PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO ARE TO BE MARRIED BY SPECIAL LICENCE

Lord of love,
we pray for *N* and *M* (*this couple*):
be with them in all their preparations
and on their wedding day;
give them your love in their hearts
throughout their married life together;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

MARRIAGE IN CHURCH AFTER DIVORCE WHEN A FORMER SPOUSE IS STILL LIVING

All marriage is holy. The Church recognises as 'holy matrimony' all marriages between a man and a women for life to the exclusion of others, whether celebrated in Church or in a civil ceremony. However, there is something very special about marriage in Church because vows are made in the sight of God and his blessing is sought on the marriage.

Our Lord Jesus Christ taught that all marriages should last for life and the Church clearly upholds his teaching on this: so a wedding in Church is based clearly on the couple's clear intention that marriage should last until the death of one partner.

On the other hand, many parts of the Church recognise that marriages can die and divorce is sometimes a sad reality. Thus the Church of England acknowledges that 'there are circumstances in which a divorcee may be married in church during the lifetime of a former spouse'.

The assumptions behind any marriage in these circumstances are that —

- neither party had been involved in the break-up of the previous marriage of the other party; **and**
- all children are being properly cared for; **and**
- the divorced party or parties have learned from their experience of the previous marriage/marriages and their ending, so that in the new marriage they will benefit from the experience; **and**
- the couple hear and appreciate the gospel of forgiveness and hope for the future in our Lord Jesus Christ.

You will find further helpful material, including useful questions for the minister and couple, in the 'Advice to clergy concerning marriage and the divorced' in the supplement to the Canons of the Church of England. See <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/policy-and-thinking/canons-church-england/supplementary-material#b135>

The parish priest will spend time discussing these issues with the couple before making a decision as to whether they may be married in church. Clergy must see and read carefully the originals of the provisional and final divorce orders (decrees nisi and absolute). In the unlikely event of a difference of opinion the couple and/or the minister may contact the Bishop and ask for a discussion with him.

In certain cases it may be more appropriate for couples to ask for a service of Prayer and Dedication after a Civil Marriage: this can take place any time after the marriage.

The Church of Jesus Christ is a body of people who know that they are forgiven sinners and that no-one is beyond the love of God.

+ Peter Sodor as Mannin.
Revised November 2018