

Greek Cathedral of Aghia Sophia

The Vicarage, Moscow Road, London W2 4LQ

 Main: 020 7229 7260

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Wedding Ceremonies at the Cathedral of Aghia Sophia

General

- **Dates:** Once a date is agreed, it will be provisionally entered into the church diary for 14 days.
 - **Deposit:** A non-refundable deposit of **£200** is required to confirm the booking (see **Section 3: Payment Information**). If not paid within 14 days, the booking will be cancelled automatically.
 - **Cancellations:** If you decide not to proceed, please notify us as soon as possible so we may release the date for others.
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Section 1: Legal Requirements & Paperwork

It is your responsibility to make the necessary legal arrangements before your wedding at the Cathedral.

1. Giving Notice

- You must **make an appointment at your local Registry Office** to give notice of your intention to marry or form a civil partnership.
- Both partners must give notice separately if living in different registration districts.
- Notice must be given **at least 29 days before the ceremony** and is valid for **12 months**.
- Without giving notice, the marriage cannot take place.

2. Legalising Your Marriage

Option A – Registrar at the Cathedral

- Invite a Registrar from Westminster Council to attend the religious ceremony and legalise the marriage.
- The process takes an additional 5–10 minutes after the 40-minute religious service.
- Booking the Registrar is your responsibility: [Westminster Council Registrar Information](#)

Option B – Civil Ceremony Beforehand

- If you do not invite a Registrar, you must first have a civil ceremony at your local town hall.
- Proof of the civil marriage must be submitted well in advance.

For Couples from Outside the UK

- You must give notice together at a Registry Office, unless both hold one of the following:
 - British or Irish citizenship
 - Settled or pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme
 - A pending application made before 30 June 2021

3. Certificate of Non-Impediment

Orthodox participants must provide a **Certificate of Non-Impediment**:

- Valid for **6 months only**.
- Cost: **£20 per certificate (per person)**, payable to the **Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain**.
- Documents required:
 - Baptism certificate
 - Passport
 - Two witnesses with passports (not close family and not from your partner's family)

Certificates are obtained:

- From your baptismal parish (if baptised in the UK)
- From St Sophia (if baptised abroad and living in the UK for 3+ years)

4. Permission to Marry

- Once certificates are provided, our priest will apply for a **Permission to Marry** from the Archdiocese.
- Cost: **£60**, payable directly to the Archdiocese via bank transfer.

Archdiocese Bank Details (for Certificates & Licence only):

- Account Name: Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Thyateira & GB, Metro Bank
- Account No: 43198369
- Sort Code: 23-05-80
- IBAN: GB61MYMB23058043198369
- Reference: *Certification*

(Please note: These details are for Archdiocese payments only, not for Cathedral fees.)

Section 2: Mixed Religious Weddings

- If one partner is Orthodox and the other belongs to another Christian denomination (e.g. Anglican, Catholic), a Baptism Certificate must be provided.

- Non-Orthodox Christians do not need a Certificate of Non-Impediment.
 - The Orthodox Church **does not perform marriages between Christians and non-Christians**. If the non-Christian partner wishes to marry in the Church, they must first be baptised. Contact Fr Nephon Tsimalis at: archdiocesanprivateoffice@gmail.com
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Section 3: Payment Information

- **Wedding Ceremony - Basic Fee:** £680 (one-hour slot)
- **Exclusive Cathedral Booking:** £2,500 (whole day, no other ceremonies)
- **Deposit:** £200 (non-refundable, required upon booking confirmation)
- **Balance Payment:** Due two weeks before the ceremony
 - £480 (for one-hour slot)
 - £2,500 (for whole day booking)

Payment Methods:

- Bank transfer or cheque only (no cash)
- Additional donations may be made at your discretion

Choir, Cross & Chanter

- Along with the basic service, you will need to pick one of the following options which incurs an additional cost:
 - Choir with Cross: **£760** (includes a £100 non-refundable deposit)
 - or
 - Chanter: **£100** (paid on top of the basic service fee of £480)
- Orthodox chanting is part of the Baptism Service.
 -  No other music or singing allowed.
- You can ask our Verger to light the Cross for a separate fee of £100 (paid in cash to him on the day of the service) but you must still choose between having the choir or a chanter.

Bank Details for Wedding & Choir Payments:

- Account Name: Greek Cathedral St. Sophia
- Bank: HSBC
- Sort Code: 40-05-33
- Account No: 61506935
- Reference: *Wedding Date*

Cheques payable to: **Greek Cathedral St. Sophia**

Section 4: Ceremony Requirements

- Two crowns (conjoined)
- Gold bands
- Bottle of **Koumandaria** (sweet wine)
- Wine goblet (optional)
- Two large white bridal candles (max. 8cm – optional)
- Tray with sugared almonds (*koufeta*) or rose petals

Best Man/Woman (Koumbari): Must be Orthodox. Non-Orthodox may serve only as witnesses.

No Weddings Permitted On:

- 13–26 December (Christmas)
- 5–6 January (Theophany)
- 29 June (Feast of Apostles Peter & Paul)
- 1–15 August (Dormition Fast)
- 29 August (Beheading of St John the Baptist)
- 14 September (Exaltation of the Holy Cross)
- During Lent: From Forgiveness Sunday until Easter Sunday
- Pentecost & Holy Spirit Monday
- Two Saturdays of the Souls (Psychosavvata)

Lent & Feast Dates (Examples):

- 2026: Lent – 22 February to 13 April
 - 2027: Lent – 14 March to 2 May
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Section 5: On the Day

- Please arrive on time. Late arrivals may result in waiting until other ceremonies are completed.
- A late fee will apply (for both Cathedral and choir).
- Strictly no confetti or rice inside or outside. Only a small amount of biodegradable rose petals is allowed outside. A **£100 fine** applies for non-compliance.

Section 6: Parking

- No on-site parking available.
- Parking meters are available on Moscow Road and nearby streets.
- Free parking after 1:30 pm on Saturdays and all day Sundays (on single yellow lines and pay-and-display meters).

 For further information, please contact the Cathedral Office:

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7229 7260 |  info@stsophia.org.uk |  www.stsophia.org.uk