

Since Vatican II 1962-1965 the effect of the changes in the Rite of Marriage and the revised view on what marriage means in the Catholic Church is that the couple and people who they would like to have supporting them are now far more involved in the wedding ceremony. By having the right to plan their wedding ceremony, it allows the couple to make their wedding special, unique, and unforgettable for them.

1

They will be able to express their style of belief and reflect their preferences.

Previously in the 1914 Rite of Marriage there was no variation in the ceremonies and all the marriages were the same.

2

The couple can now choose or write their own vows within certain guidelines, which make it both more personal and more special for the couple.

1

Another significance in planning your wedding is that the people whom you would like to be involved in some way are far better prepared and it will result in everybody knowing what is going on and the ceremony itself running smoothly. The couple can decide which language their ceremony will be and even write some of their own Prayer of the Faithful to reflect their situation.

2

Today, because more people are involved it becomes a community celebration and its holiness will effect more people and maybe encourage others to get married in the Catholic Church. It certainly has the impact of making the couple feel more valued (CCC1603 / 1605). It has shown a significant shift in power in the Church. The social implication is that the congregation can have an effect on the events in the Church (*Lumen gentium*).

3

4

One of the other big changes is that the Rite of Marriage is said in the vernacular i.e. the couple can have the Rite of Marriage said in whatever language they choose. Here in New Zealand marriages are said in English, Maori, Samoan and even Spanish. This is a very significant from the old days of it all being said in Latin as the couple, and the congregation, can understand all that is said. It has a particularly personal implication for the couple, as they know that they are committed for life (CCC1621).

3

4

For the congregation the priest will challenge those present to support the couple for life. This makes them feel more involved and a valuable part of the Church (CCC1641).

3