

What happens when a person is an innocent party to a separation or divorce?

In some marriage breakdowns the decision is not mutual. The actions or decisions of one party will always impact upon the other. Any separated or divorced Catholic should continue to be made welcome by a merciful and compassionate Church. They should not be embarrassed to discuss their situation with their local clergy or parish personnel.

What happens to the children when a marriage is annulled

Children of the marriage remain legitimate and both parents have responsibilities for them after a Declaration of Nullity has been made (Canon 1137).

How do I go about obtaining a Declaration of Nullity?

The brochure, '*Questions & Answers. The Tribunal and Processing of Annulment Inquiries*', covers many aspects of the process, including contact details. Available from parish offices or the Diocesan website: <https://www.cdsale.org.au/tribunal>

The process involves providing information that may be deeply personal. All information provided is treated confidentially.

Every person will be cared for with compassion and their dignity will be maintained throughout the process.

More Information

If you have questions about faith and separation, divorce or Declaration of Nullity, please contact the Sale Diocese Tribunal at <https://www.cdsale.org.au/tribunal> or 03 5622 6600

Further Reading

Scan the codes or search the following Documents



Sale Diocesan website- Tribunal

Love in the Family (Amoris Laetitia) written by Pope Francis. See in particular Chapter 8.

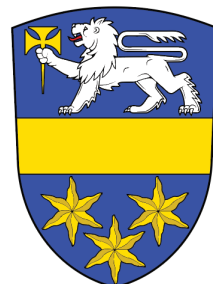


Australian Catholic Bishops
Divorce and the Catholic Church – FAQs

When Dreams Die. Written by - New Zealand Bishops



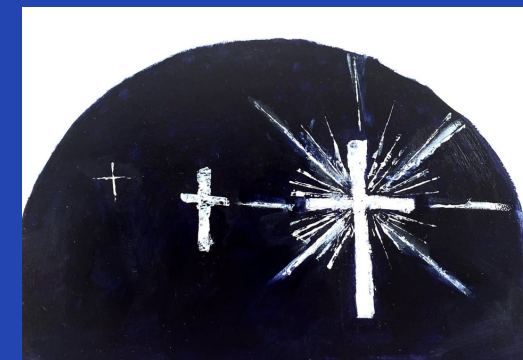
More reading is available on the Shine a Light page of the Diocesan website at <https://www.cdsale.org.au/sal>



Catholic
Diocese
of Sale

SHINE A LIGHT ...

ON THE CATHOLIC CHURCH'S
TEACHING ON SEPARATION, DIVORCE
AND ANNULMENT



NOT ALL MARRIAGES WORK OUT

Jesus said, "I have come so that they may have life and have it more abundantly".
John 10:10

Marriage in the Catholic Church is a Sacrament. It reveals God's divine love which is free, faithful and fruitful. At its heart is the desire for every person to live a loving and lifegiving relationship.

This brochure responds to some frequently asked questions.

How does the Church understand a Sacramental Marriage?

On the day of their wedding, the man and woman exchange vows which affirms that they:

- Are free to marry
- Understand what is involved in the promise of life-long fidelity,
- Will provide mutual support and love,
- Are open to accepting children as a gift from God.

"From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight" Psalm 72:14

What is the Church's teaching on separation and divorce?

Today, marriage breakdown is a reality that occurs in many marriages. There is nothing that can prepare or equip a person for the trauma or grief which is part of this experience. The Church is aware of the stresses and complexities associated with the marriage breakdown and divorce. The Church wishes to reach out and support those people who experience the pain and hurt of separation or divorce.

What is the Church's position on separation or divorce in cases of domestic violence?

Violence has no place in any marriage or relationship. All acts of violence – physical, sexual, emotional, spiritual – are condemned by the Church and subject to criminal law. Safety is paramount. The Church supports those who choose to separate or divorce from violent relationships to ensure their personal safety and that of their children (Canon 1153§1).

What is the Church's view on forced marriage?

For a Catholic marriage to be valid, couples must freely choose to enter into their marriage. External coercion, where a person is forced into marriage against their will, seriously compromises a person's freedom to marry making it invalid, and grounds for a Declaration of Nullity.

What is the difference between separation, divorce and annulment?

Separation

Is when a couple decide to no longer live together.

Divorce

Is when the State officially dissolves the marriage allowing each person to civilly marry again.

Annulment (Declaration of Nullity)

Is a declaration by the Church Tribunal that at the time of a wedding a permanent bond of marriage, as understood by the Church, did not come into existence because some essential element for a valid marriage was lacking.

Can a person who is separated, divorced or had their marriage annulled, take part in Church life?

- Anyone who is separated can continue to be included in the Church and participate fully in the life of the church, including receiving Holy Communion.
- Anyone who has obtained a civil divorce AND has not entered into another marriage or a de-facto relationship, can participate fully in the life of the Church and receive Holy Communion.
- Anyone who has received an annulment can participate fully in the life of the church. The person is free to marry again in the Catholic Church according to Church Law.

Can a divorced person who has entered a new union, either by civil remarriage or a de-facto relationship, come to Mass, and be involved in Parish Life?

Everyone is always welcome to come to Mass, including those people who are divorced, remarried without an annulment or who have entered a de facto relationship. However, should you find yourself in any of these situations, and you have questions, you are encouraged to seek advice and counsel from your parish priest.

Participation at a glance

Who	Can Participate in Mass	Can Receive Communion	Be welcomed and involved in the Catholic Community
Separated Single	✓	✓	✓
Separated De-Facto	✓	Please discuss with your priest	✓
Divorced - Single	✓	✓	✓
Divorced-De-Facto / remarried	✓	Please discuss with your priest	✓