

Wedding Ceremony Testimonials

Rev Geraldine M Bown



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Michelle and Alan

I feel like we were meant to have Rev. Geraldine as our solemniser on our wedding day. We actually came across Geraldine by watching a video clip from our videographer. As soon as we heard Geraldine's captivating voice and beautiful words we knew we had to track her down. Once we did Geraldine was so lovely from the moment we spoke to her. She guided us through the whole process of our ceremony, reminded us the importance of the day, gave us the opportunity to look back on our relationship and how we have come to the point of getting married. When it came to putting our ceremony together Geraldine helped us every step of the way. We loved that 99% of what was said by Geraldine at our ceremony was words chosen by us. It felt so special, romantic and emotional. On the day itself Geraldine spoke with us individually, reminding us the importance of the ceremony. It was truly memorising. Geraldine captivated everyone and brought some tears to eyes. Everyone fell in love with her, just like I knew they would. We still have guests singing her praises and in awe of the ceremony we had. Some of our guests hadn't been to a non-church wedding before and said that they couldn't compare it to a church wedding, it really blew them away. We can't praise Geraldine enough and we will be sure to recommend her to everyone.



Leonie and Nicholas

Geraldine was recommended to us by the manager of our wedding venue. He told us that Geraldine was a pleasure to deal with, she conducted the most beautiful ceremonies and he loved her nature. He certainly wasn't wrong! We contacted Geraldine by email and she replied straight away! We arranged a video call for the next afternoon and Geraldine outlined in detail what sort of ceremony she provided. She did not put any pressure on us to have her as our celebrant, and told us to take as much time as we needed to decide on our celebrant - we didn't need any time, we loved Geraldine from our first call and decided to have her marry us.

Geraldine was so kind and met us in person when we were on holiday close to her home a few months later. She was so lovely, easy to talk to and most importantly she said yes to everything we wanted for our ceremony. We recall her saying "well it's your ceremony so I'm not going to say no to anything". We felt like we were on the same page as Geraldine when it came to faith, beliefs, and the ins and outs of religion. However, this only came up in conversation, Geraldine's motto is very much "your day, your way". So there was no pressure on us to have a certain type of ceremony. We included God and prayers in our ceremony, but also had many secular gestures throughout. It was perfect for us as it had the right balance of everything we wanted. We found Geraldine very interesting to talk to and we could have conversed for hours! We corresponded through email and video call in the lead up to the day. Geraldine was always so quick to respond to any queries we had, even what we thought were 'silly questions'!



On the day Geraldine met us both separately and privately before the ceremony, she really calmed any nerves that were there. She has such a gentle and calming nature. Our ceremony was absolutely beautiful! It was extremely emotional and nothing could have prepared us for the level of emotion we felt that day! Everyone commented on how beautiful and personal our ceremony was, there wasn't a dry eye in the room! We enjoyed every second of it and we will never forget this incredible and special day. We will forever be grateful to Geraldine and everything she did for us in the lead up to and on our wedding day.



Jerry and Fiona

I'm not sure of the correct description for a spiritual Minister but you are a class act! So impressed with your professionalism but also your 'presence'. It gave our ceremony great dignity. We really can't thank you enough for making our wedding such a memorable day. We knew ourselves that the ceremony was incredibly special, a very special and emotional atmosphere was created in the room right from the beginning, and from what we hear there wasn't a dry eye in the house. We have had nothing but praise for the ceremony, and how moved people were by it. I think Fiona's brother summed it up when he said that nobody will want a catholic church ceremony after attending our wedding. Straight after the event, we had feedback from the hotel staff, who heard people saying how beautiful it was. Of course we knew that ourselves, but it was very rewarding to get such wonderful feedback from so many people.

We would like to pass on all the compliments and praise that we received from friends & family of yourself as celebrant. I think the common denominator was your natural dignity as a celebrant and the professionalism and elegance that you brought to the ceremony.

With our love and thanks.



Éadaoin and Paul

We would like to thank you for such a lovely experience in both the lead up to and on our wedding day. Every aspect of the planning and preparation was full of warmth and fun. Even with only two months' notice there was never any stress. On the day itself, you were such a professional. Both of us particularly loved the little chat we each had on our own with you before the ceremony. What a great idea! It was so important, among all the busy jobs, to take a few minutes to remember what was about to happen. Everybody at our wedding commented on how beautifully personal the ceremony was. We will forever be grateful to you for helping us create such a memorable day.
Éadaoin and Paul



John and Leyla

Dear Geraldine - Our most heartfelt thanks for making our ceremony beautiful and special. From the first time we met we got the sense that you are kind and empathetic and completely focused on helping us create a ceremony that was true and meaningful to us. This support continued through the preparation period with you being very responsive and open to our needs and questions.

The day itself you were brilliant, bringing a joyful and calm presence to the occasion. The ceremony was more than we could ever have imagined and you led through it with true grace. We cherished your inclusive, warm hearted approach that helped us integrate our multicultural family and friends into the ceremony, bringing us and them great joy!

So many people came up to us afterwards saying that it was the most beautiful, meaningful ceremony that they had seen at a wedding. We absolutely loved it and are sending you our most sincere gratitude!
John and Leyla



Susie and Andy

Geraldine gave us a wonderful ceremony for our wedding in December, guiding us through every step, helping to create a service that was perfect for us. She gave lots of suggestions for what we could include on the day, sharing lots of different ideas we had not thought of before. She confidently guided us through the whole process whilst giving us the freedom to do what we wanted and take out anything we weren't comfortable with. We wanted a ceremony that our friends and family would feel included in, which was tailored to us and who we are. Geraldine made us feel relaxed with her support, and delivered a beautiful, warm, loving service on the day. We had lots of people come up to us afterwards to tell us how much they enjoyed the ceremony. Particularly how inclusive it was for everyone. Even our photographer emailed us afterwards to say it was the best he had seen! Geraldine, thank you for everything. For your help and guidance, and your wonderful delivery on the day. We loved it.



Kenneth and Michael

Geraldine, I cannot express eloquently enough just how much we loved our wedding ceremony on Friday. Usually in the aftermath of a wedding people talk about the food, music and how drunk and hungover they got in terms of how much they enjoyed it. For us they have been raving on about the ceremony - the general consensus was it was the best one they were ever at in terms of either church or civil ceremonies. People were saying they usually zone out during ceremonies but on Friday everyone was totally engaged wondering what would happen next. Myself and Michael loved it from start to finish and couldn't be any happier with how it went - it set the tone for what was an excellent wedding day. We appreciate so much the warmth and kindness you showed us both and the true professionalism in which you conducted the ceremony. Our heartfelt thanks and gratitude.

Love and best wishes,

Kenneth and Michael xxx



John and Taissa

As soon as the camera came on during our first Skype call, we were met by this beautiful bright smile. After that call, we knew we had found our celebrant. Over the several months that followed, we emailed back and forth until we came to a ceremony we all liked, and Geraldine was always available to answer any questions we had. On the big day itself, she was absolutely brilliant. Practical, very calming, a clever speaker and an excellent storyteller! It was a fantastic ceremony and everyone just loved the way she told our story... Big smiles all around!



Susan and Eileen

My wife and I were lucky enough to be married by Geraldine in September. The whole experience was an absolute pleasure from beginning to end. She put us at ease right from the start by ensuring we knew exactly what to expect. Geraldine was always on hand to make suggestions and offer guidance so that we could make the ceremony a true representation of who we are as individuals and as a couple. We received so much positive feedback from our guests with some even saying that it made them fall in love all over again! It truly was the best day of our lives and that was in no small part thanks to Geraldine and the manner in which she conducted our ceremony, I couldn't recommend her enough.



Avril and Alan

I just wanted to drop you an email to thank you for conducting the most beautiful marriage ceremony on October 16th. Every single guest commented on how beautiful it was. We are so delighted we chose you as our celebrant!

I'm going to leave you with a little snapshot of one of the most talked about moments of our whole day!!! It was the moment Alan said 'I do' to you instead of to me!!!! The whole room erupted in laughter and it was spoken about all day!!

Thanks again!
Avril and Alan



Thomas and Kelly



We are grateful to Rev. Bown for her efforts as our wedding officiant. Whether you are specific in your beliefs or non-denominational, Geraldine is perfectly suited to guide you through your ceremony.

In the beginning stages of preparation, Rev. Bown makes every effort to get to know you. She will meet with you (in our case via video chat) in hopes of getting a better understanding of who you are and what your preferences will be. She provides you with unlimited choices to ensure that your ceremony is fluid in its execution and heartfelt in its presentation. She is timely and professional in her preparation, giving you ample time to familiarize yourself with the details for when the day comes that you simply have nothing to worry about other than concentrating on enjoying the moment. She provides guidance on matters that

you are unsure of and advice on ways to make your ceremony unique and special. Simply put, you have nothing to worry about, other than to enjoy yourself.

And here is the best part... When your special day arrives, her calm and gentle personality ensures a relaxed attitude to the ceremony. She is light-hearted, soft-spoken and has an aura about her that ensured that everyone in attendance concentrated on us, feeling the love and admiration that we wanted to share with them. Rev. Bown is articulate and well-spoken. She annunciates perfectly and the inflection in her voice conveys your feelings just as well as if you had spoken the words yourself. She makes the ceremony about you, not her. She doesn't put on a show, but rather ensures the guests concentrate on you. She keeps you in the spotlight from start to finish, as all wedding ceremonies should be.

We cannot thank Rev. Bown enough for all her efforts. She truly made what some consider to be a hectic and stressful day, into a joyous and memorable day for all in attendance.



Victor and Patricia



Reverend Geraldine was a delight to work with. She helped my husband and I enter into our sacred union consciously. We found her through a google search of Reverends who were not linked to any denomination. The ceremony was unique and reflective of us as a couple. She accommodated a combined wedding/ baby naming ceremony! She brings a calm, cantered and radiant energy. It was a pleasure getting to know you Rev. The experience was no unique that our guests still talk about it. Planning a destination wedding can be a challenge but Rev. Brown made the process so easy and honestly it was fun. I looked forward to our skype calls. She gave me practical conflict resolution tips that I still use to this day! Thank you.

Victor and Patricia, Texas, USA

Jonathan and Josephin

We were so happy with all you did on our special day. You truly were the perfect person and your guidance, help and calming influence was invaluable. You gave us ample freedom to design a ceremony which was very personal and we were happy that we were able to include so many of our friends and family which made it even more special to us. We cannot thank you enough for the beautiful service you conducted on the day. Many said it was the most moving wedding they had even been to. Thank you for being part of the most wonderful day of our lives so far. Love and best wishes.



Maggie and Phil

When we were planning our intimate wedding Geraldine was recommended to us by our wedding planner. She already knew of Geraldine's work and had told us how lovely she was. When we first had dealings with Geraldine we instantly knew we had made the right choice cause she made us feel so at ease and it was clear that we could design our own bespoke wedding ceremony. We lived hundreds of miles apart but the internet truly was a wonderful invention.

We wanted a religious aspect to our service but also various individual twists to make it our own unique service. With all of Geraldine's help we ended up designing our own beautiful service. We wanted to include my husband's son (my gorgeous new step-son) as much as possible in the service so that he could understand how important he was and is to us. Again Geraldine came up with a number of ideas that we could use and during the service Rhys beamed for ear to ear with pride at being included.

What we loved most about Geraldine was her gentle kindness and the professionalism she showed throughout the service. Geraldine also had loads of suggestions for the service but left it entirely up to us as to what we wanted and was more than happy to include any of our own suggestions.

I also showed the ceremony to my elderly parents when we got home and my mother cried when she read the ceremony because she thought it was so beautiful and intimate and suited us perfectly. All that we can say is "thank you Geraldine for helping us make a beautiful personal service for our wonderful wedding day. We will never forget it."



Miriam and Isaac

We wanted a wedding that would suit us, when looking into our options for a celebrant we realised that some humanist celebrants are non denominational but also atheist. This did not suit us. We are spiritual people but not affiliated with any one religion. The interfaith ministry and Geraldine fit our beliefs and values.

We celebrated our wedding in The Three Towers in Galway, Ireland, we live in Fremantle, Western Australia. Geraldine made it very easy for us to communicate and go back and forth via skype and email to perfect our ceremony.

We could not have asked for a better celebrant, Geraldine helped us tailor our dream ceremony and not just that but carried it off so beautifully for us in the incredible setting we had. We loved every part of the ceremony and especially the kind words Geraldine had prepared based on the questionnaire we had filled out months previously and forgotten about. We cannot recommend Geraldine highly enough, for her kindness, her compassionate nature, her attention to detail, her support before and during the ceremony and her eloquence in the delivery of the service. Her encouragement and guidance made for a joy-filled experience.



Laura and John

We wanted to say a huge thank you for not only being part of our big day but for making it! The ceremony you created was exactly right for us. The presence you brought to the day was just stunning and was apparent to everyone there. We still talk about how much we loved meeting and getting to know you and I regularly tell people who ask about my wedding that the ceremony was hands down my absolute favourite memory of peace and love on the day. You are a joy! Thank you again and much love.



Mona and Pat

Both Pat and myself just wanted to thank you for a truly beautiful, heartfelt and unforgettable ceremony. It was truly a magical and very emotional experience and we are so happy and grateful that you were there with us on our wedding day.

We wanted to thank you for preparing such a personal ceremony, for answering all our questions, putting together - bit by bit - exactly what we felt was right for us and guiding us through it on the actual day (and for calming me down a good bit just before we went out!). Thank you also for taking time before the big day to meet us and have a chat - it was really important to us to have met our celebrant in person.

Everyone we talked to really was so taken with the ceremony and felt it was really personal and just so lovely.

Thank you so much for everything, Geraldine. It was a wonderful experience and it was great to have met you.

All the best wishes and lots of love.



Toby and Georgia

An enormous thank you for all your hard work, guidance and thoughtfulness in helping us put together such a beautiful ceremony. It was such a gift to have you lead the ceremony, and we've received countless comments from guests on how unique and 'us' it was - in no small part down to your help. Thanks again and lots of love.



Clare and Alan

Geraldine was recommended to us as an Interfaith celebrant for our wedding day, and we could not have asked for a better guide through the wedding process or officiate on the day. She was never anything but warmth, patience and openness personified.

She allowed us to have the wonderful celebration of our relationship which we both wanted. The love, relaxed atmosphere and light hearted nature of our ceremony was thanks to Geraldine's careful planning, attention to detail and grace as a celebrant. She made everyone on the day feel included and welcome. We will never forget how special our wedding was and the spirituality and sense of harmony that Geraldine brought to the day.

We would recommend her to anyone seeking a personal, meaningful and memorable wedding ceremony.



Gerry and Sandra

As it was my 2nd marriage, we couldn't get married in a church in the Catholic tradition but neither Sandra nor I wanted to anyway. I'd class myself as agnostic and Sandra is a lapsed catholic, but she still retains the better aspects of Catholicism.

We both wanted to have a wedding ceremony that reflected this and within 20 seconds of meeting the Rev Geraldine, we both knew we had made the right decision. She gave us her undivided attention, suggested the style and format of ceremony that might suit us, but never at any point put us under any pressure to include A,B or C and at every corner her primary concern was 'what was best for us'. It's difficult to put into words, but her warmth, kindness, and genuineness, put us so at ease .

On the day of our ceremony Geraldine was an Angel at our side, she met both of us beforehand, was reassuring and calming without ever being intrusive, she had both of us so relaxed before the ceremony that we were both able to enjoy and take in the whole thing .

We had 45 guests at the ceremony, and to a man/woman, they all said that it was the most moving, warm and personal wedding that they have ever been to and that is down in no small way to the guiding hand that was the Rev Geraldine Bown.



Beth and Alan

As both of us had been married before, we decided that we wanted something different, something unique to us. And that is exactly what we got ! From the beautiful outside ceremony with a donkey and some sheep and MoMo the dog - with our small group of family and friends - the person who helped and guided us throughout - was Geraldine ! She didn't frown at our decisions or disapprove. She encouraged us to choose what we wanted / what we wanted to say and what we wanted to include. The service was so personal and will never be forgotten. As anyone can see from our photographs - our wedding was one of happiness and laughter. Would we do it the same if we had the chance ?? Absolutely ! Thank you Geraldine for your beaming smile and warm words.



Claire and Damien

Geraldine you performed the most beautiful ceremony for us. It was warm and personal and we received so many wonderful comments from our guests saying it was the loveliest wedding ceremony they have ever attended. Meeting you and preparing our ceremony together in the months prior made our day more personal and special, you were like a friend and we will never forget the meaningful words from start to finish. Thank you so much



Jemma and Joseph

We chose an interfaith ceremony as our families are from different faiths, although neither of us are particularly religious we felt it would be a nice way to incorporate everyone into our special day, and Geraldine did just that so beautifully!

When we were looking for someone to officiate our wedding, in the garden of a picturesque manor house in the west of Ireland, we came across Geraldine - and frankly knew straight away that she would fit our brief- and we were not disappointed. Geraldine was easy to get a long with from the start, kind and intuitive. Geraldine ensured the process was fun, engaging and a wonderful experience - from picking our readings to the order of ceremony, Geraldine really took her time to get to know us and tailored the ceremony just right for us.

Although a relatively new concept - and the first time it had been done in Roundstone! the Interfaith ceremony was purely magical (relaxed, comfortable, a few laughs) and an absolute hit - I am sure we will be seeing a lot more Interfaith Ceremonies in the future!



Chantal and Joe

We chose an Interfaith ceremony because even though we were both raised Catholic, we knew a church wedding wasn't for us. We would consider ourselves somewhat spiritual but not religious, so were delighted when we came across the Interfaith Foundation, which neither of us had heard of before. It allowed us complete freedom to include whatever we wanted in our ceremony. As a result, it was completely unique and very special.

We chose our location first (Galway) and then looked up the list of ministers on the website. Geraldine's was the first name we saw, so we sent an email and she replied quickly with loads of helpful information. We got on very well so we just took it from there. The whole process was very smooth and relaxed... there was never any pressure, which was lovely. We had an initial meeting followed by lot of emails back and forth, plus a Skype call. You could call it a DIY process with lots of gentle guidance from Geraldine. She often spotted things that just didn't sound right or that wouldn't make sense when read aloud on the day... when you've read over something a million times you do tend to miss things! She always steered us in the right direction and in the end, we had the most amazing ceremony that was the highlight of the day for everyone - even lots of our family members who are quite religious and weren't too sure about the whole non-church wedding thing. People kept saying how it was the nicest, most meaningful ceremony they had ever been to. It was all so relaxed on the day too - we didn't do a rehearsal or anything like that, we just showed up and followed Geraldine's lead. It worked out great as it was so natural; nothing was forced. There were a few hiccups (like us forgetting to tell the best man that he had to oversee the ring warming!) and lots of laughter which throughout the ceremony which just added to the fun, relaxed atmosphere.

To anyone who feels that a church wedding isn't for them but wants something more than the registry office, I would wholeheartedly recommend an Interfaith ceremony.



Madelyne and Michael

Such joy and happiness was felt on our wedding day. We were so thankful to be able to express ourselves in the ceremony, no matter how goofy or different our ideas were. Mike and I are both fairly non-traditional, so having one of the big, traditional, Catholic weddings his family are used to just didn't fit us. Being able to celebrate our union and focusing on more of the spiritual aspect of the marriage rather than the religious was important to us - and helped us not offend the different religions of guests we were surrounded with on our wedding day as well.

We chose you after a lot of searching. We were looking for someone who would help create a meaningful ceremony, but allow us to let our personalities shine through at the same time. Helping us build the beer ceremony was one of my favourite parts of the day. People still tell us how much they loved that part of the ceremony - it was definitely 'us'.

We found the process of working together to be perfect! It's hard to plan a destination wedding, so having the Skype meetings, email chains back and forth and constant communication really helped us! We felt completely organized and prepared by the time our wedding day came. Having the many examples of things we could put into the ceremony was also very helpful. We loved being able to build our ceremony from the ground up.

Again, we just loved our ceremony. There were so many smiles, happy tears, laughs and just a general feeling of love the entire time.

Thank you so much for helping us start our life together.



Cliona and Stas

We chose Geraldine and what a fabulous choice! We wanted to avoid a "formulaic" ceremony and to have a much more personal and meaningful wedding. Geraldine fulfilled our hopes and more. Indeed, she brought everyone together with her personable and sensitive manner. (On chatting to several male friends afterwards they found the whole ceremony moving and very emotional).

Importantly, the initial pre-ceremony working with Geraldine was a delight and so helpful. After we had met her we instantly knew she was the right person to start our married life off on the right footing

With our love and gratitude
Stas and Cliona



Diarmaid and Linda

Diarmuid and I would like to offer our sincerest gratitude to you Geraldine for helping us to create the perfect ceremony. You got to know us in the months leading up to the wedding, delving into our backgrounds and finding out who we were and what our expectations were of our future together. You worked with us to create the most beautiful ceremony; every word, every poem and every song held meaning for us. You set time aside to take our calls and to go over all of our questions. You provided comfort and guidance to me during a stressful time for which I am truly grateful. Our guests raved about how beautiful and personal our ceremony was and how they felt privileged to be a part of it.

We are so grateful to have met you and have you perform our wedding ceremony.
Diarmuid & Linda



Niamh and Tim

Geraldine took the time to get to know us personally and what we wanted from our wedding ceremony. She gave us the opportunity to create a wedding ceremony that reflected us.

She was reassuring, professional, easy to talk to and was available for any questions we had in the build up to our perfect day. Our ceremony was intimate, relaxed and we put a lot of this down to Geraldine's kind and personal nature. We would highly recommend Rev Geraldine.



Meadhbh and Philip

We had the privilege of having Geraldine as our celebrant for our wedding. She was recommended to us from a friend, and she was lovely to deal with from the beginning and put us at great ease. She helped us shape our ceremony according to our values and wishes and we had lots of comments from our guests on the day about what a beautiful ceremony it was. Thank you. Meadhbh and Philip



Claire and Dave

Thank you so much for all the support and help you gave us in the build up to our wedding ceremony. You were an absolute pleasure to work with and we felt so confident and at ease as you led us through the path to marriage. Yours gratefully Claire and Dave.



Cora and Dave

To celebrate our wedding, we wanted a ceremony that was laid back and personal but not without meaning. Geraldine helped us create just that She was very supportive throughout the whole process and very accommodating as we were planning our wedding from overseas. She provided lots of options which allowed us to shape a ceremony that reflected our personalities. She put everyone at ease on the day and was a very calming influence. Thank

you for helping us have such a memorable day.

Thanks for all your help in the lead up to our special day.

Cora and Dave



Patrick and Marie

Geraldine, thanks for a wonderful meaningful ceremony, our guests were delighted with it and were full of praise for both you and the ceremony itself. Marie and myself would like to thank you personally for making our day so meaningful



Ella and Paul

Thank you so much for being such an important part of our day. We have had so many wonderful comments about the service - we couldn't have done it so well without you. Thanks for all your help in making our day such a special and memorable one.

