

CELEBRATING MARRIAGE IN OUR PARISH

So, you've decided to get married! Congratulations, and you're thinking of celebrating it in our Parish.

Welcome!

There are many things you will want to plan for the celebration of your marriage.

This booklet will help you plan your wedding in a Catholic Church and will answer your questions about church and civil requirements for marriage.

The priest who celebrates your wedding will help you to:

* Prepare for your marriage.

* Complete the necessary documentation.

*Prepare the wedding ceremony.

WHY MARRY IN A CATHOLIC CHURCH

The question of where you will hold your wedding is an important one which you will need to talk about together.

A Catholic Church is an ideal choice for anyone with a connection to the Church and who wants to deepen their beliefs about marriage.

The Catholic Church believes that the marriage bond is sacred and permanent.

In the wedding ceremony the bride and groom administer the sacrament to each other by their declaration of consent.

In this awesome and holy act, they are filled with the Holy Spirit who strengthens them for their life together.

This is the blessing couples seek by coming to the Church for their marriage.

WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?

If you decide to marry in a Catholic church, the first step is to contact the parish priest in the area where you live or, at least, where one of you lives.

A Catholic wedding normally takes place in your own parish church, or where one of you, have a connection. If for some reason you would like to celebrate the wedding in another church, it is wise to discuss it openly with your parish priest first.

Couples have sometimes booked a favoured church only to find that the priest of that parish is unavailable, and it can be difficult to find a priest who is or able to travel due to other commitments. It is then often very difficult to find a priest who can undertake the preparation and celebration of your marriage with you.

These contacts should take place as early as possible, normally at least six months before the wedding date.

So you make an appointment to see the celebrant and book the church for the wedding.

The celebrant has a duty to assist you to prepare adequately, not just for the wedding ceremony itself, but for the life-time commitment which you are undertaking in marriage.

YOU WILL NEED TO PROVIDE:

Birth Certificate:

It is obtainable from the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, or a recent

Passport or Baptismal Certificate:

You need a copy less than six months old obtainable from the parish where you were baptised. Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your full name, date of birth and parents' names.

Evidence of Death or Annulment:

If you have been married before.

If other documents are required, the celebrant will inform you. In Australia, the Catholic priest or deacon acts not only as a minister of the Church but also as a registered marriage celebrant for the state. He will help you fill out both the civil and church papers before the wedding.

The civil Notice of Intended Marriage must be signed at least one month before the wedding, of course, you will want to take more time than a month to prepare with the celebrant for your wedding and your marriage. The priest or deacon does not charge to officiate at a wedding, however, it is usual to offer suitable remuneration.

The celebrant will also provide you with information on charges for the use of the church and on local arrangements for music, flowers etc.

It is a good idea to draw up a time-line and checklist for these details to help your planning go as smoothly as possible.

How Do We Prepare for Marriage?

There is a danger in all the work that is involved in preparing for the wedding and reception - events which last a few hours - that a couple might lose sight of the importance of preparing for their marriage, a lifelong relationship.

Before a wedding in a Catholic church all couples will be asked to reflect on their commitment to each other and to prepare for married life by undertaking some form of marriage education and spiritual preparation.

It is best to begin this marriage preparation at least six months prior to your wedding. It will help you recognise the strengths of your relationship identify and discuss any weaknesses, and give you new skills to help build a satisfying marriage

You may have a series of discussions with the celebrant.

WHAT IF A CATHOLIC IS MARRYING A PERSON WHO IS NOT A CATHOLIC?

At weddings in a Catholic church, a Catholic may marry a Christian from another Church or a non-baptised person.

In such cases, the celebrant is required to complete an application for

"permission for a mixed marriage".

Catholic partners are asked to reaffirm their faith in Jesus Christ and their intention to live that faith in the Catholic Church. They promise to do all in their power to share that faith with their children by having them baptised and brought up in the Catholic Church. The Catholic party must inform the other partner of this promise and sign the declaration.

No promise is required of the other partner. The minister of the non-Catholic partner may be invited to participate in the celebration of the marriage in a Catholic church, for example,

by:

reading from the Scriptures,
leading a prayer, or blessing the couple.
If a Catholic wants to get married in
another Christian church or outside a church, when there is
sufficient reason, such a marriage for a Catholic may be
recognised by the Catholic Church.
This is a possibility you should discuss
with your parish priest.

THE CATHOLIC WEDDING CEREMONY

The Catholic rite of marriage is structured as follows 1. INTRODUCTORY RITE

After the entrance procession, the priest greets and welcomes the people and prays the opening prayer.

2. LITURGY OF THE WORD

A reading from scripture is followed by the singing of a psalm and the reading of the gospel. An extra reading from scripture may be included. Then, in the homily, the priest or deacon speaks of marriage.

3. LITURGY OF MARRIAGE

After an introduction and some questions addressed to the couple, they declare their consent to marry. This is followed by the blessing and exchange of rings, and prayers of intercession.

If the Liturgy of the Eucharist is not included, the Nuptial Blessing and Lord's Prayer follow.

4. LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

If the marriage is celebrated during Mass, the Liturgy of the Eucharist follows. It incorporates the Lord's Prayer and Nuptial Blessing.

5. CONCLUDING RITE

The priest blesses the couple and the people.

The marriage register is signed.



As part of the preparation for marriage, the priest will take you through the ceremony to explain the significance of each aspect of the wedding ritual.

WEDDING BOOKLET

Many couples prepare their own wedding booklet to help those present participate in the ceremony.

The booklet should give the outline of the service showing the component parts, those texts which the whole assembly will sing or say, a brief explanation of the meaning of the rites, and some directions to help the people participate (all stand, sit, etc.).

You do not need to print the full text of the readings or of the prayers said by the celebrant. Liturgical texts, scripture translations and hymns are covered by copyright.

You will need to seek permission to print words or music and the copyright owners must be acknowledged in the booklet.

The celebrant will be able to assist you in preparing your wedding booklet and should be shown a copy before it is printed. It is possible to arrange with the celebrant to have a wedding practice in the church a day or two before the ceremony.

Enjoy your wedding and may God richly Bless you!

BOOKING'S & FEES

You may book the church over phone, however this booking is considered temporary until the couple have an appointment with the priest and the appropriate fee is paid in full.

Fees are as follows:

St Augustine's Church, Wodonga

Sacred Heart Church, Wodonga,

St Frances Church, Bethanga,

St Josephs Church, Dederang,

Our Lady Help Of Christians, Tangambalanga,

& St Josephs Church, Mt beauty,

\$400.00.

This fee covers the use of the church and the government and Church paperwork that will be incurred for your marriage preparation.

If you would like additional information
Please contact the Parish Centre
Ph: 02) 6024 3366 or Email: wodonga@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

FLOWERS

Please contact the Parish Centre
Ph: 6024 3366 or Email
wodonga@sandhurst.catholic.org.au
for available times for setting up your floral
Arrangements.

MUSIC: HYMNS / SONGS FOR MARRIAGE CEREMONIES:

Hymns and musical arrangements for your marriage ceremony should be discussed with the priest.

CONFETTI:

Every effort is made to have the church clean and tidy for your wedding day.

It would be appreciated if you reminded your guests that confetti throwing is not permitted within the church grounds.

FOR MARRIAGES IN PLACES OTHER THAN A CHURCH:

For marriages in places other than a church, the priest will help you apply to the Bishop for "permission to marry in a place other than a church"

Although, not in a church, there are still cost involved ie paper work, travel for the priest, etc.

An appropriate donation is expected in these cases.



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