

WHAT THE CHURCH REQUIRES

1. Preparation

We are most concerned that you make your promises with a clear understanding of the commitment involved in marriage. To help you do this a course is provided which explores the meaning of marriage, some of the problems which may be faced and the skills which can help lead to a successful marriage. Remember, what you get out of the preparation depends upon what you put into it.

2. The Wedding Service

The Church authorises a number of forms of wedding service which can be used. Within these forms of service there is considerable latitude for change, such as the addition of personalised expressions of commitment and the involvement of friends and family in the service. The form of service, choice of readings, music and prayers are discussed at the first interview with the priest.

3. Relationships

Marriage can not occur between the following;

- a man and his father's wife (*even though she may not be his mother*).
- a man and his son's wife.
- a man and his father's sister, his mother's sister, his brother's daughter or sister's daughter.
- a woman and man related to her in a similar way to the prohibited relationships for a man.

4. Remarriage After Divorce

Regulations regarding remarriage after divorce differ between Christian denominations. In the Anglican Church the celebrant talks with the Bishop to seek a blessing for a remarriage.

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1. Notice

At least three months notice should be given prior to a wedding taking place.

2. Arrangements

It is important to arrange the initial interview with the priest as soon as possible. Only provisional bookings for weddings will be made over the

telephone. A firm booking will be made after the non-refundable deposit is made.

All paperwork will be handled by the priest. Supporting documentation needs to be presented as soon as possible.

3. Interviews

You should expect to have at least four interviews with the priest. These include part of the preparation course, a discussion concerning marriage and organisation of the wedding service.

WHAT THE STATE REQUIRES

Marriage is celebrated under the control of the Commonwealth Marriage Act 1961. Failure to comply with all the necessary provisions of the Law involves heavy penalties.

1. Ages

The marriageable age is eighteen years for both males and females.

2. Consent

A minor (aged 16-18) may, with written consent of both parents and/or an order from a court, be married to someone of marriageable age.

3. Birth Certificates

An original birth certificate must be presented to the priest prior to the wedding. Photocopies of certificates are **NOT** acceptable. The names that appear on your birth certificate are the names that are required to be used on all official documents sent to the Department of Births, Deaths and Marriages

4. Evidence of Divorce

If one or both parties are divorced, the priest must be shown the decree stating the date and place of the termination of the previous marriage.

5. Evidence of Death

If one or both parties have had a spouse die, the priest must be supplied with a Death Certificate before remarriage can take place.

6. Compulsion and Sobriety

It is an offence for any person to be married under duress, compulsion or in any other way against his or her will. A wedding can not take place if one or both partners appear to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

7. Documentation

The following is a list of the legal documents which form part of the marriage contract. All of this documentation is arranged by the priest.

- a. Notice of Intended Marriage: this is a form that must be signed and delivered no earlier than three months before the marriage, and no later than one month.
- b. Statutory Declarations: these set forth the legal fitness of the couple to marry and must be signed by the couple and witnessed by the celebrant before the wedding.
- c. Consent Forms: these are required when either of the partners are under age.
- d. Marriage Certificates: These are signed on the day of the wedding. One is sent to the Registrar, one is handed to the couple and the other is kept by the church.

8. Witnesses

Two witnesses to the marriage are required. They must be 18 years of age or over, and they are required to sign the certificates. They may be any person of your choice.

THE PREPARATION PROCESS

There are many things to do before your wedding including paper-work, the Marriage Preparation Course and design of the Wedding Service. You will find that the priest will lead you through this process, but as already stated, it is important that you commence it as soon as possible. The process has four phases;

- i Introduction and Administration
- ii Marriage Preparation Course
- iii Prepare Survey
- iv Discussion and design of the wedding service

1. Application and Initial Interview

At the initial interview there will be a general discussion concerning marriage an explanation of the preparation process. You will be provided with a number of resources for the preparation of your wedding service and information regarding marriage preparation.

At this stage the date and time of your service will be confirmed and arrangements will begin for your attending a marriage preparation course.

A start will also be made on the paper-work. If possible, it would be helpful if you could bring your Birth certificates. Allow about an hour for this interview.

2. Marriage Preparation Course

In many areas the clergy run a marriage preparation course. If this is appropriate to you, they will supply you with information concerning the course and make arrangements for you to attend it.

The aim of the marriage preparation course is to assist couples to prepare for their marriage through evaluation of their relationship. Topics covered include;

- a. relationship skills such as communication, conflict resolution, families, sexuality and stress.
- b. administrative issues such as financial matters and wills.

3. Prepare Survey

The Prepare surveys are designed to give you feedback on your relationship as it is now. They are administered by the priest and are done in strict confidence.

The Survey is a computer generated activity based on each partners response to a series of statements touching on various aspects of their relationship. Its aim is to give you a clearer picture of your relationship through the identification of 'strengths' and 'work' areas. It therefore helps in improving your communication, increasing your trust, extending your understanding of each other and building up your relationship strengths.

It takes two interviews of around one hour each to conduct the Survey; the first to undertake the questionnaire and the second to supply the feedback. It is necessary to allow about two weeks between interviews for computer processing and postage. There is a small cost to do the Survey.

4. The Wedding Service and Final Interview

The final interview concerns the wedding service. It should be held around one month before the service so that you will have enough time to make the final arrangements. During this interview the wedding service will be explained and a draft of your requirements will be made.

It is necessary to have looked at your wedding resources prior to this interview. Choices of form of service, readings, prayers and music need to be made. Special note needs to be made of the church requirements for musicians, flowers and decorations, photographers and the option of printing an order of service.

The priest can advise you regarding the printing of an order of service. It is advisable to have a draft of the service checked by the priest prior to printing so that any mistakes can be corrected.

5. Rehearsal

Finally, arrangements will be made to have a rehearsal in the church during the week prior to the wedding. It is preferable that all of the bridal party and those participating in readings or prayers be at the rehearsal.

The 'statutory declarations' are also usually signed at the rehearsal.

THE WEDDING SERVICE

Customs are changing with respect to weddings. Whereas the form and actions in weddings was once clearly understood and followed, today there is much more flexibility with respect to actions, dress, decorations, participation, guests and the conduct of receptions. The following comments are made as a guide to organising your wedding.

1. Order of Service

The orders of service you will need to discuss your preferences with the priest who can take you through the options.

You also need to advise the priest if you are both going to exchange rings.

There are a number of other options available such as having a 'candle ceremony' or Holy Communion as a part of the wedding. These may be discussed with your priest. The signing of the register normally happens at the end of the service.

Music:

South Bathurst Parish does have an organist and the cost is covered by the fees. But you are welcome to invite other musicians such as singers and

instrumental ensembles to participate in your service. You may play CD music but you will have to provide an operator.

If you wish to use involve a visiting organist, permission must be obtained from The Reverend Wendy Dubojski at least Six weeks before the service. *(There is no fee reduction for the provision of your own organist nor if you choose any other musical option.)*

Any visiting organist must be a qualified organist.

3. Flowers:

South Bathurst usually has a display of silk flowers in the sanctuary area. If however, you wish to have alternative or additional floral displays you will need to make your own arrangements after discussion with the priest.

4. Photographs and Videos

It is customary to have an official photographer to record your wedding. It is requested that they do not interfere by taking photographs during the middle of the service. Video recordings may be taken during the service. The priest can advise you further on these matters.

It is advised that you gain the assurance of the photographer that material from your wedding will not be used for commercial or media purposes without the written permission from you.

5. Attendants

The groom and his attendants are required to be at the church fifteen minutes before the service.

6. Ushers

An usher will be required to hand out service sheets, (if you have them) to the congregation. They should be on duty fifteen minutes before the service.

7. Involvement of Other Clergy

Other Anglican clergy and clergy from other Christian denominations are, with the invitation of the priest, welcome to participate in the service. We welcome friends and family members who are clergy to be involved with the service. If you wish to do this, it must be discussed with the priest prior to any arrangements being made.

8. Confetti and Rice

Please stress to your friends that no confetti is to be thrown in or around the entrance of the church. Rice is very difficult to remove and cause problems with animals and confetti can stain not only the bride's dress but guest apparel as well.

9. Fees

The payment of fees Saint Barnabas charges \$400.00 per wedding. Payment in full must be made two week's prior to the Wedding.

Clergy, other than the celebrant, who participate in the service may need to be paid unless other arrangements are made. It is also customary to pay for their traveling expenses.

10. The church

Churches are normally open for viewing during working hours. They are usually available a half an hour before the service for the placement of flowers and decorations, or at another time by arrangement.

12. Press Notices and Invitations

Do not have your invitations or notices printed until you have confirmed the date and time for the ceremony with the priest at your initial interview.

13. Changes

If for any reason, you find it necessary to change times, dates or occasions, please notify the priest immediately.

Check list

Personnel

Priest's Name:

Priest's Telephone Number:

Record of Interviews (date/time)

Initial (Discussion and Paper-work):

Second (Prepare Survey Questionnaire):

Third (Prepare Survey Feedback):

Fourth (Marriage Service & Admin):

Other Interviews (eg divorce etc):

Marriage Preparation Course Date:

Wedding Rehearsal Date and Time:

Administration

Application Form Presented:

Application for Remarriage After Divorce Presented (if applicable):

.....

Birth Certificates Presented: No

No

Evidence of Divorce (if applicable):

Evidence of Death (if applicable):

Notice of Intended Marriage Signed:

Bishop's Permission to Marry (if required):

Wedding Service Options:

Readings: 1. **Read by:**

2. **Read by:**

Music:

Procession:.....

Recession:

Incidental (during register):

Solo:

Hymns: Yes/No

1.....

2.....

Organist's Name:.....

Organist's Telephone Number:.....

Other musicians:.....

Candle Service: Yes/No

Candles provided by: Couple/Parish

Flowers: Yes/No

Supplied By:.....

Holy Communion: Yes/No

Number of wedding rings: One/Two

Bridal Party: Number of Groomsmen:.....

Number of Bridesmaids:.....

Others:.....

Full Names of witnesses: 1.....

2.....

Photographs: Yes/No

Photographers Name:.....

Telephone Number:.....

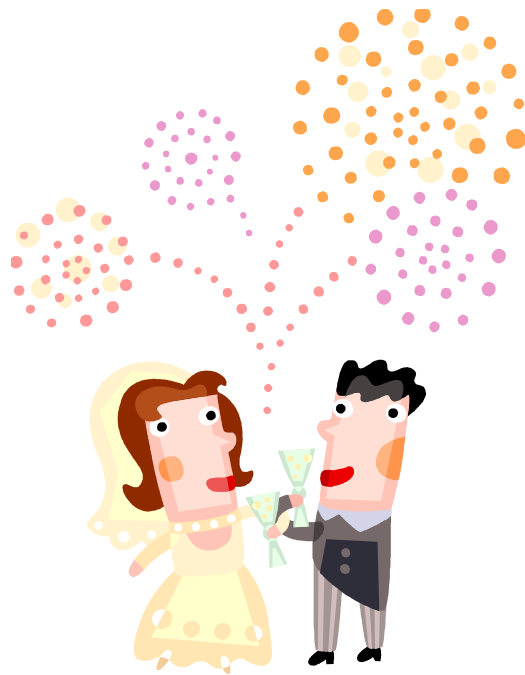
Video Operators Name:.....

Telephone Number:.....

Printed Order of Service: Yes/No

Number of Guests:.....

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT A
CHURCH WEDDING
AND WERE AFRAID TO ASK.



Anglican Weddings

Congratulations on your decision to be married in church.

We pray that both your time of preparation and your wedding day will be a joyful and meaningful experience for you. We believe that marriage is one of the most important commitments a man and a woman can make in their lives and therefore take some effort to ensure that you have the best possible start.

Marriage is a serious, yet wonderful relationship. The wedding service acknowledges that God is vitally involved in this relationship, for God desires us to live lives of commitment and love. God promises to strengthen our love for each other through His love, and the wedding service is a time when we focus on this promise. As a part of your preparation it is hoped that you will enter into regular worship at either the church or another church.

The decisions and promises you will make in the wedding service are life-long commitments and therefore need to be taken only after proper consideration and preparation. The Church also feels a continuing care and responsibility for you, so if you need counsel or advice, do not hesitate to seek out our help.