

## WEDDING

We as a Christian community are delighted that you have decided to get married, and even more delighted that you want to have a marriage within the Christian Church, with prayers and God's blessing. Our prayer is that you will experience in your marriage a deepening love and understanding of one another, joy and fulfilment together, and a happy and secure home and family in which to bring up children for God.

Christians view marriage as a life-long commitment between husband and wife - made publicly and before God, involving promises and responsibilities. Christians believe God created men and women to love each other and to love God and that God gave us the gift of marriage. To be married before God involves accepting the Biblical teaching that:

- Marriage is for life and involves a total commitment.
- Marriage is the setting for sexual intimacy, union and fulfilment between a man and a woman.
- It is the environment in which God desires children to be nurtured.

The marriage services used by the Anglican Church in Australia expresses this Christian view of marriage. In the promises you make before God and one another, you will be saying that you agree to commit yourself to this Christian understanding of marriage.

### Church requirements

- *Baptism:* The church's requirement is that the bride and bridegroom are baptized. Proof of Baptism is required. Please provide the priest with a copy of your baptismal certificate. If neither is baptised, then it is not possible for the wedding to be held in the church. Should you wish to be married in the church, either the bride or bridegroom or both will need to be baptised prior to the wedding date and a baptism preparation course will need to be attended.
- *When one or both parties are Divorced:* If either the bride or bridegroom is divorced, the divorced person will need to make application to the Bishop of Rockhampton seeking permission to be remarried. The priest will make the application on your behalf and this will entail extra meetings with the divorced party. You will also need to provide the priest with original copies of your decree absolute papers.
- *Location:* Should you wish to have your wedding in a location other than the church, permission will need to be sought from the Bishop of Rockhampton. This will only be granted if there is an appropriate pastoral response to the couple's request and will thus be considered on a case by case basis.

### Legal Requirements

The Commonwealth Marriage Act requires that:

- You are free to marry.
- Both of you have attained the age of 18 years.
- In the case of a divorce, that decree has become Absolute before the new marriage takes place.

The Commonwealth Marriage Act also requires that people who intend to marry give 31 clear days' notice of their intention to a Marriage Celebrant by completing and signing FORM 13 (regulation 38) of the

Marriage Act 1961. If this is not done the marriage will **not** be able to proceed. The Notice of Intention to get Married (NOIM) form must be signed in the presence of the Marriage Celebrant. The priest will help you complete this in his presence. You will need to provide original Birth Certificates and proof of identification. If are unable to provide your birth certificate, then your passport is sufficient.

Prior to the wedding taking place, the bride and groom must make a statutory declaration in the presence of the priest stating that there is no legal impediment to the marriage. This is done at the rehearsal and the priest will provide the paperwork for this.

## Clergy

The Dean of Rockhampton will preside at all marriages.

## Order of Service

The order of service used is that of the Anglican Prayer Book of Australia.

It is not possible for the bride and groom to write their own vows.

- **Music:** You can either have a pianist/organist play music during the service. Please select 3 pieces of music for the service - one for the bride's entrance, one during the signing of the register and one as the married couple leave the church. If you choose to have the pianist/organist play, the traditional music used is *The Wedding March* by Mendelssohn and *The Bridal March* by Wagner.
- **Readings:** It would be lovely if members of your family could do the scripture readings. The following are some suggested readings from scripture. Please select one or two of the readings:
  - A. Old Testament: Genesis 1.26–2.4a; Genesis 2.18–24; Genesis 24.48–51, 58–67; Song of Solomon 2.8–14; Song of Solomon 4.1–7; Song of Solomon 8.6–7
  - B. New Testament: Romans 12.9–18; 1 Corinthians 12.31–13.13; Ephesians 3.14–19; Ephesians 5.21–33; Colossians 3.12–17 [18-19]; 1 John 3.18–24; 1 John 4.7–16
  - C. Gospel: Matthew 5.1–12; Matthew 7.21–29; Matthew 22.35–40; John 2.1–11; John 15.9–12 and/or 12–16
- **Booklet/sheet:** It would be helpful if you produced a service booklet or sheet to hand to guests as they entered the church. It should contain the following information:
  - A. Welcome to the marriage service of Bride and Groom
  - B. Date
  - C. A Photo of the Bride and Groom (optional)
  - D. Name and title of the Celebrant
  - E. Names of Bridal Party (optional)
  - F. Words to any hymns/songs being sung (optional)
  - G. The Lord's Prayer

## Copyright

Very strict rules are now being enforced and churches breaking them are being fined heavily. The Cathedral has a CCLI Licence, which give us most of the copyright cover we need.

If you wish to print out the words of the marriage service, an electronic copy of the service is available from the Parish Office. If the words of hymns or songs are to be printed, copyright details must be included.

### **Flowers**

You may have flower arrangements in the Cathedral. Please discuss with the Dean.

### **Rehearsal**

A full rehearsal will be arranged with yourselves which will take place during the week prior to the wedding. The following people should be at the rehearsal.

- Bride and Groom
- Best man and groomsmen
- Father of the bride (or whomever is accompanying her down the aisle)
- Maid of Honour/Bridesmaids
- Ring bearers and flower girls
- Photographer if possible

### **Photographer/Videographer**

It is permitted to have a photographer and/or a videographer present during the service. They are permitted to use flash photography; however, they are not permitted to bring extra lighting into the church. Please ask your photographer to refrain from using flashes during the prayers. The Photographer and videographer should consult with the Dean at least 15 minutes before the service begins. It will always be necessary for the photographer and cameraman to be as still and unobtrusive as possible.

### **Confetti, rice and flower petals**

The use of paper confetti and rice is not permitted anywhere on the Cathedral precinct, but flower petals and potpourri are allowed outside the building. Flower petals may not be dropped down the.

### **Decorations**

Should you wish to decorate the end of the pews with a floral arrangement along the aisle, this is permissible. However, you may not use drawing pins to secure them. Rather use ribbon.

### **Marriage Preparation**

The Church wants to help you prepare, as well as we can, for your life together as a married couple. We think this preparation is very important as we wish only the best for your future life together as you take your vows before God.

Therefore, you are expected to attend a pre-marriage preparation course facilitated by 'Prepare-Enrich Australia'. The course involves answering an extensive questionnaire which analyses the your relationship in the following areas: Communication, Conflict Resolution, Partner Style and Habits, Financial Management, Leisure Activities, Affection and Sexuality, Family and Friends, Relationship Roles, Spiritual Beliefs, Partner Dominance, and Flexibility of Family-of-Origin and of Couple Relationship amongst other things.

## **Fees**

<b>Service</b>	<b>Fee</b>
Basic	\$800
Bells (optional)	\$100

God bless you as you prepare for your wedding day.

The Very Revd Melusi Sibanda  
**Dean of St Paul's, Rockhampton**

*(Updated 23/10/2019)*