

# Wedding Information Pack!

## Fees

St Mary's Chapel entails a fee of \$1400.00 in total. This includes all legal requirements, the priest, full use of the building, a staff member to play your recorded music, and standard flowers. Services conducted outside of this building will entail a fee of \$700.00. Payment must be made in full either at, or prior to the wedding rehearsal.

## Flowers

The cost of providing two stunning, contemporary silk arrangements of flowers is included in the wedding fee. You may add other flowers and decorations, but please consult with the priest as there could be other weddings on the day.

## Ushers

It will be helpful to your guests if you arrange to have two ushers available 20 minutes before the commencement of your wedding service.

## Be on Time

Being on time is essential. Other events take place in St Mary's and so each wedding has an allotted time. The bridegroom's party will need to arrive 25 minutes before your scheduled time, and the Bridal party will arrive five minutes before. Lateness may cause your wedding to be postponed to later in the day.

## Music

A selection of pre-recorded music may be played, provided Copyright laws are observed. We also welcome your arranging musicians to play. We suggest that you will require at least three pieces of music. Each person will have their own taste and style, and we happily respect your choices.

## Photographs

Your photographer is welcome in St Mary's. If you have not already organised a photographer we can give you some names of professionals we have found to be helpful.

## Video

Professional or amateur video is welcome, however video operators require a special "Single – Event" video license from AMCOS – Australasian Mechanical Copyright Owners Society, before a wedding can be videotaped. A license application form is available from the Church office.

Please make your family and friends aware of these copyright laws; refusal to allow videoing on the day can cause confusion and embarrassment.

## Something to throw

Traditionally confetti, rose petals or rice has been thrown over brides and grooms to celebrate the event. Unfortunately these make a huge mess and have environmental consequences. We would suggest silk petals for inside the church, and/or bubbles outside for when the bride and groom exit, as a preferable alternative to these. You may like to provide some for your guests.

## Service Sheets

We are happy to help you to prepare an order of service if you require one.

## Change of Address

Please let us know if you change your address or phone number after you have made a booking. If we cannot contact you we will assume you are no longer intending to marry, and your booking will lapse.

## Address for Invitations

St Mary's Heritage Chapel 3 Mann Street  
Gosford NSW 2250

## Readings

You may care to choose a suitable reading from the list below for use in your wedding service. Other readings or poems may also be used, so feel free to discuss with the marriage celebrant. We use the New Revised Standard Version of the bible:

*Genesis: Chapter 1, verse 26 to Chapter 2, verse 4a. Psalms: 128; 37 (verses 3 to 7); 67; 23; 100; 121; 138. Ephesians: Chapter 3, verses 14 to end.  
1 John: Chapter 3, verses 18 to 24.*

*1 John: Chapter 4, verses 7 to 16.*

*1 Corinthians: Chapter 12, verse 31 to  
Chapter 13, verse 13*

*St. Mathew: Chapter 7, verses 21 to 29.*

*St. John: Chapter 2, verses 1 to 11.*

*St. John: Chapter 15, verses 9 to 17.*

Go to <http://bible.oremus.org/> to see these verses.

## Legal Speak

Marriage is celebrated within the framework of the Commonwealth Marriage Act, which is a Federal Law governing all marriages celebrated within Australia and its Territories. Failure to comply with all the provisions of the Marriage Act involves heavy penalties, invalidation of the marriage, and possible gaol terms. At least month prior to the date you will need to meet with the priest who is conducting your wedding and begin the legal requirements for marriage. The following areas are applicable, and you need to be aware of them:

## Minimum Age

Under the law of the Commonwealth of Australia, the marriage of any person under 18 years of age without the order of a judge or magistrate is invalid. If you are under 18 years of age marriage is still attainable, however, will require greater notice so that permission may be sought.

## Birth Certificates

An original Birth Certificate and photo ID must be shown to the marriage celebrant at least one month prior to the marriage. If you do not have your birth certificate one may be obtained by contacting the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. This does have a cost associated with it and will require an extended period of time.

## **Evidence of Death**

A Death Certificate must be produced before the Marriage of a person whose previous union terminated in the death of the partner.

## **Divorce**

The priest must be shown the Decree stating the date of the termination of the previous marriage. Information concerning the date of the first union and the number of children (together with dates of birth) must also be supplied to the Celebrant.

## **Compulsion**

It is an offence under the act for any person to be married under duress, compulsion, or in any other way against his/her own free will.

## **Sobriety**

It is an offence under the Act for any marriage to be solemnised if one, or both, of the Parties to the union appear under the influence of, or affected by, alcohol or drugs.

## **Witnesses**

You must have two witnesses to the Marriage, who sign the Registers. Both witnesses must be over the age of 18 years.

## **Legal Documentation**

A number of Legal Documents must be signed as part of the Marriage Contract.

## **Notification of Intended Marriage**

This form must be signed and witnessed no later than one full month before the date of the Marriage. In all normal circumstances, this should be completed three months prior to the wedding.

## **Declarations**

Statutory Declarations as to legal fitness of the couple to be married must be signed before the Marriage and be witnessed by the priest.

## **Marriage Certificates**

Two Marriage Certificates are signed on the day of the Marriage. One Certificate is sent to the Registrar General, the other is handed to the parties of the Marriage. All the official documentation is arranged by the celebrant of the marriage for your convenience. However the certificate you receive on the day is not a legal document. For privacy reasons, only you can obtain your legal marriage certificate by applying to the Department of Births, Deaths & Marriages.

# Your Wedding Service!

## Entrance

A song of your choosing is played to welcome the bridal party.

## Welcome Statement of Intention

The priest outlines to all present that the basis of marriage is love.

## The Reading /Poem

A reading from the bible, and maybe some other appropriate poem or reading is read.

## The Wedding

*N*, will you give yourself to *NN*, to be her husband, to live with her according to God's word? Will you love her, comfort her, honour and protect her, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her so long as you both shall live? *I will.*

*The partner responds in reciprocal.*

Families and friends, you are witnesses to these vows. Will you do everything in your power to uphold *N* and *NN* in their marriage? *We will.*

*I, N*, in the presence of God, take you, *NN*, to be my wife: to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, so long as we both shall live. All this I vow and promise.

*The partner responds in reciprocal.*

*The rings are blessed.*

*N*, I give you this ring as a symbol of our marriage. With all that I am, and all that I have I honour you; in the name of God. Amen

*NN*, I receive this ring as a symbol of your love and faithfulness to the end of our days. May God enable us to grow in love together.

*The partner responds in reciprocal.*

*Hands are joined and wrapped with the priests stole.*

Before God and in the presence of us all, *N* and *NN* have joined hands and made their solemn vows, promising life-long faithfulness to each other. In the name of God, I declare them to be husband and wife. What God has joined together, let no one separate.

*A blessing is said upon the couple.*

*The couple are pronounced married and invited to kiss one another.*

*The Register is Signed. During which an appropriate song is played.*

## Prayer/\$Blessing\$

*A final prayer, then blessing is given and the congregation stand to welcome the new couple.*

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# Wedding Trivia

According to Greek culture, the bride tucks a sugar cube into her glove to sweeten the union The groom carries the bride across the threshold to protect her from evil spirits prowling below Hindu tradition says rain on your wedding day is actually considered good luck Egyptian women pinch the bride on her wedding day to bring her good luck

Middle Eastern brides protect themselves from the evil eye by painting henna on their hands and feet Swedish brides put a coin from each parent in each shoe to ensure she'll never do without Moroccan women take a milk bath to purify themselves before their wedding ceremony. A pine tree is planted outside the newly-weds' home in Holland as a symbol of fertility and luck

Rings are worn on the 4th finger of the left hand / it was thought a vein in that finger led to the heart Queen Victoria started the Western world's white wedding dress trend in 1840 Ancient Greeks and Romans thought the veil protected the bride from evil spirits Most expensive wedding ever was the marriage of a Sheik's son in Dubai in May 1981 @ \$44 million. Brides carry or wear "something old" on their wedding day to symbolise continuity with the past.

In Denmark, brides and grooms traditionally cross-dressed to confuse evil spirits

In Egypt, the bride's family does all the cooking for a week after the wedding, so the couple can...relax.

In South Africa, parents of the couple carry fire from their hearths to light a new fire in the newly-weds' hearth.

The tradition of a wedding cake comes from ancient Rome, where a loaf of bread was broken over a bride's head for fertility

The custom of tiered cakes emerged from a game where the bride and groom attempted to kiss over an ever-higher cake without knocking it over.

An old wives' tale: If the younger of two sisters marries first, the older sister must dance barefoot at the wedding or risk never marrying

The bride stands to the groom's left during a Christian ceremony, because in bygone days the groom needed his right hand (sword hand) free to fight off other suitors.

In many cultures around the world the hands of a bride and groom are literally tied together to demonstrate the couple's commitment to each other and their new bond as a married couple (giving us the popular phrase "tying the knot").

## Contact Us

email: