

WEDDING POLICY FOR ST JOSEPH'S ENFIELD

St. Joseph's parish welcomes couples who wish to be married. We hope we will be able to help you celebrate this important day in your life.

St. Joseph's is a beautiful Church and is available for weddings where at least one of the parties is Catholic. It may not be possible to celebrate a wedding in the Catholic Church if one or both parties have been married previously. You will need to seek advice from your parish priest, proposed celebrant or from the Tribunal of the Catholic Church (9390 5120) in such a case.

BOOKING THE CHURCH

To arrange a wedding the couple selects a date and then rings to check whether the Church is available on this date. They also apply to the priest of their choice who will arrange an interview and explain the issues relating to marriage in the Catholic Church.

Applications can be printed online or a copy can be provided by the Parish Office. A deposit of \$200.00 is required to secure your wedding booking date.

You must book between six and twelve months before your wedding day, so that you can get the day of your choice and to facilitate the best preparation for your marriage. A booking fee for the church is required - please see section below headed OFFERING FEE.

Weddings can be booked between the times of 1:30pm & 3pm on Saturday's and Sunday's.

Timeliness is a sign of respect for others – both your guests and your celebrant. Delays in the arrival of the bride may result in a ceremony which is condensed or rushed, and there may be no time to take photographs afterwards as there may be another service on in the Church.

DOCUMENTATION

To be married in Australia, the government requires a certified copy of the full birth certificate (an extract is not sufficient) or a current passport. If a party is born overseas a copy of their full birth certificate or an OVERSEAS passport is required.

The Church requires a recent copy of the baptismal certificate (no older than 6 months before the wedding date) for the Catholic party. This is obtained from the parish of baptism. A baptism certificate is also required from a party who is baptised in another Christian denomination (it does not need to be recent).

Other documentation may be required in unusual circumstances. Your celebrant will inform you of this at the time of the initial interview.

Please note that in Australia the Intention of Marriage Document must be signed and completed no earlier than eighteen months and no later than one month before the wedding. The ceremony will be arranged in consultation with the celebrant.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

The Church and the government are concerned that couples are well prepared for the marriage and not just the wedding day.

The Church strongly recommends approved marriage preparation courses. Celebrants are increasingly insisting upon attendance at one of these so that you have the best preparation possible.

The courses are about your relationship and they are not "lessons". The course will help you to develop your relationship through a series of talks, and times for couple communication. Naturally the sacramental aspect of marriage will be covered as will all areas of married life.

People who have attended have found the course very helpful in raising issues, sometimes for the first time; going deeper into questions yet unresolved and in giving themselves time for genuine communication. All these things build a firm base for a happy marriage.

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney website lists many organisations which run courses. Go to sydneycatholic.org/marriage/marriage_preparation.shtml.

It is essential to book early, as these courses are very popular and can be fully booked months in advance.

FLOWERS

All flower arrangements must be ordered directly through Sue Chidiac of Bonanza Florist Enfield, by phoning 9744 1584 or 0474 773 577 from Monday to Friday. They must NOT be removed after the ceremony.

Other floral arrangements or decorations are permitted, including bows on pews but arrangements for these are to be made with Bonanza Florist for an additional fee. STRICTLY NO other florist is permitted to decorate the Church.

(It is not compulsory to have flowers on your wedding day)

MUSIC ARRANGEMENTS

It is up to the couple getting married to make musical arrangements for their wedding in consultation with their Priest. If you are looking for a musician you may wish to make arrangements with:

Valerian Rego (keyboard) 0447 558 931

Christopher Libro (singer/guitarist) 0419 774 669

Diana (singer) 0405 344 509

Sabria Systemans (www.silverstrings.com.au) 0407 059 607

Alternatively, we have a portable CD player and facility to play music from an ipod or phone through the Church sound system.

OFFERING FEE

For couples outside the parish a \$800 fee is required to secure the booking. You must provide your application form with a \$200 deposit when booking your wedding day. Balance must be paid in full prior to your wedding day. For parishioners contributing to our parish envelope system it is a \$600 fee.

This amount may be fully or partly refundable:

- If the wedding is cancelled no later than six months before the wedding date – FULL REFUND.
- If the wedding is cancelled between six months and one month before the wedding date – HALF REFUNDED
- If the wedding is cancelled one month or less before the wedding – NO REFUND.

Recently there has been a trend for friends or family of the couple to mark the occasion by driving motor bikes and noisy cars around the Church, disturbing the neighbours and damaging the footpaths and the road. THIS IS ABSOLUTELY FORBIDDEN at St Joseph's. Police have been called in the past. If the Parish Priest believes that this is a possibility a \$2,000 bond may be requested which will be fully refunded if the wedding takes place in a quiet and dignified manner.

CONFETTI & CARS/CARRIAGES

NO CONFETTI OR RICE or any other materials may be thrown in or around the church.

Cars may use the courtyard but HORSE DRAWN CARRIAGES MAY NOT come onto the courtyard because they damage the pavement. They must stay in the car park at the back of the Church on the tarred area. Entry to the courtyard is via Baker Street.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Couples are free to organise photography and videotaping to suit their needs at St. Joseph's. However please emphasise to your photographer that under NO circumstances is the videographer or photographer allowed on the sanctuary area, or around the altar. Only the bridal party may stand here for photographs unless the celebrant particularly invites others.

It is sensible to remind photographers, especially video photographers, not to stand directly in front of parents and guests during your ceremony. Also, they should refrain from moving around during the readings, the homily, and the Eucharistic Prayer (if you are having a Mass).

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Office on 9747 4884.