

WEDDING POLICY FOR ST JOSEPHS' ENFIELD AS AT NOVEMBER 2014

WHO MAY BE MARRIED AT ST. JOSEPH'S

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.

Once the date has been settled the couple completes the online application form (to be found on the Parish website) and emails or posts this to the Parish Office. A letter from the Catholic priest or deacon who will be blessing the marriage must be mailed/faxed or emailed to St Joseph's before your booking date can be confirmed.

It is recommended to book early, about six to 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 donation for the church is required - please see section headed OFFERING.

Weddings can be booked between the times of 1:30pm & 3pm on Saturdays' 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 a number of 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

Two floral arrangements, either side of the altar, are included in your offering and are provided by Sue Chidiac at Bonanza Florist (9744 1584, Monday to Friday only). They may 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. No other florist is allowed 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 (key board) 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

For couples outside the parish a \$900 donation (from January 2018) is required to secure the booking (two flower arrangements on the sanctuary are provided in this). For parishioners contributing to our parish envelope system it is a \$600 donation. This amount may be fully or partly refundable:

- **If the wedding is cancelled no later than six months before the wedding date – FULLY 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 discretion is important, and under **NO** circumstances is the videographer or photographer allowed on the sanctuary area, 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.