



Marriage 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 (02 9390 5120) in such a case.

Booking the Church

To book a wedding the couple selects a date and then rings to check whether the Church is available on this date. They also will need to speak to the priest of their choice who will arrange an interview and prepare the couple for marriage in the Catholic Church. Applications can be downloaded from our website PDF copy. Please print and complete the wedding booking form and bring this on your appointment to the Parish Office. A deposit of \$200.00 is required to secure your wedding booking date. Please book at least 12 months before to ensure you get the day of your choice. **(Please see Church Booking Fee Terms for full fees for marriages)**. Weddings are strictly at 11:30am or 2pm on Saturday's and Sunday's at 1:30pm. No other times are permitted as the Church has a busy schedule for other events. Please choose carefully one of these times. 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 extremely 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.

Visit <https://www.catholiccare.org/family-and-individual-services/counselling-andrelationships/marriage-and-relationship-education/> or <https://smartloving.org/engaged/> for marriage preparation courses.

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

Flowers

We can recommend you to our florist Sue Chidiac 0474 773 577. Please click here <http://stjosephenfield.org.au/wp-content/uploads/flower-packages.pdf> to view Flower Packages. Cash payment must be made directly to Sue.

You may use your own Florist, but these are the requirements:

- A Cash bond of \$1000 refunded after the wedding when the Church has been and checked.
- Flowers on Pews must be attached by elastic bands/ribbon only and cannot contain any water containers on the ends.
- Pew Flowers must be removed / all artificial flowers and decorations must be removed from the church after wedding ceremony.
- Any damage from water spills on the carpet will result in partial/full loss of bond.
- Church must be in the same clean conditions prior to the wedding or partial/full loss of bond

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, we can recommend you to Christopher Libro (singer/guitarist) 0419 774 669 Alternatively, we have a portable CD player and facility to play music from an iPod or phone through the Church sound system.

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 are 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).

Church Booking 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. The 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.

- between six months and one month before the wedding date – HALF REFUND

- one month or less before the wedding – NO REFUND

Loud Noise

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 and Police have been called to deal with these issues in the past. A bond of \$2,000 is required if you are going to have motor bikes or loud noisy cars, the bond will be refunded after the wedding provided that there are no infringements by the police. NO CONFETTI OR RICE or any other materials may be thrown in or around the church. Cars and horse drawn carriages may come onto the courtyard. They must stay in the car park at the back of the Church on the asphalted road. Entry to the courtyard is via Baker Street. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Office on 9747 4884.