

# Getting Married at Christ Church Cathedral



## One of life's great events.

A wedding is one of life's great events and we are pleased to have the opportunity of sharing with you such a special time in your life. This brochure discusses the things you will need to know about having a wedding in our Cathedral Church.



## What you need to know...

### ***Baptism***

Christian marriage in Church is for couples who wish to make promises before God. At least one of you needs to be a baptised member of a Christian Church. (Please bring documentary evidence of baptism when you come for your first interview, if you can).

### ***Divorce and Remarriage***

The Church welcomes people who have been divorced and wish to marry again. When someone who has been divorced wishes to marry in church, however, the bishop's approval is required. For this reason we need 4-6 months notice and you will need to show the priest who talks to you the Registration Copy of the Decree Absolute.

### ***Pre-Marriage Education***

Marriage places demands on both partners, and skills of communication and conflict-resolution are essential. Marriage preparation helps you to listen to each other and to explore your expectations, values, similarities and differences. We know that your marriage will be strengthened by attending a marriage preparation course. This is a requirement before your marriage can proceed at Christ Church Cathedral. The priest will discuss this with you.

### ***Notice of Intended Marriage***

This form has to be completed no earlier than eighteen months and no later than one month and one day before the wedding.

### ***Birth Certificate or Passports***

The *Marriage Act* requires each partner's full birth certificate to be sighted by the celebrant when the *Notice of Intended Marriage* form is being completed. People born outside Australia may show their passport in lieu of their birth certificate. The death certificate of the former partner is required in the case of a widow or widower.

### ***Consent Forms***

When either of those to be married is under 18 years of age, the proper consent forms (available from the Court House) must be completed, signed and witnessed.

### ***Fees***

The cost of a wedding at Christ Church Cathedral is \$700. A non-refundable deposit of \$50 is required at the time of booking, and the balance must be paid at least two weeks before the wedding date. Flowers are arranged free of charge if no special flowers are required. You may make your own arrangements for flowers, but we need to know if you will want to remove them or leave them in the church. The cost of the organist and/or musicians is an extra.

### ***Music***

The Cathedral Organist, Digby Barrow is the person to contact with regard to the music for your wedding. Contact through the Church office 89819099. He will advise you of the fee which is directly payable to him.

### ***Flowers***

Flowers are arranged ready for the Sunday services, though you may wish to discuss supplementing these.

### ***Pew Decorations***

These may be placed on the ends of the pews before the ceremony. The timing needs to be discussed with the priest. Please have someone organised to remove them as soon as your wedding is finished.

*At Christ Church Cathedral we seek to share God's unconditional love of all people regardless of age, sex, marital or family status, sexual orientation, ability or wealth.*

### ***Ushers***

Most couples find that there are people amongst their family or friends who are happy to be asked to hand out the service books and greet the guests as they enter the Cathedral. Usually two people are sufficient for this task.

### ***Order of Service***

We are required to use the authorized prayer books of the Anglican Church. These provide a number of options for you to consider.

### ***Bible Reading***

A list of suitable readings is available on request. It is good if one of your family or friends will read the passage from the bible at the wedding. It would be helpful if the reader attended the wedding rehearsal.

### ***Hymns***

One or more hymns can be chosen and will be discussed with the priest and the organist. You may wish to use other forms of music, a group or CD's.

### ***Rehearsal***

Rehearsals usually take place a day or two prior to the wedding when the participants are available. Please confirm the time of the rehearsal with the Dean.

### ***Photographs and Videos***

The most important issue with any photography is that it is unobtrusive. Photographers must consult with the priest prior to the wedding. Video lights need to be positioned so that they are not glaring in the eyes of the congregation and need to be left on for the duration of the service.



## **CHECKLIST OF IMPORTANT EVENTS BEFORE THE WEDDING**

### ***As early as possible***

- Book the church and pay the deposit.

### ***6 to 3 months before the wedding***

- Arrange pre-marriage preparation.

### ***6 months before the wedding***

- Make an appointment with the office for the priest to complete with you both the *Notice of Intended Marriage*. Bring your Baptism and Birth Certificates to this interview and the details of the pre-marriage education you have completed.

Discuss music with the organist.

### ***2 Weeks before the Wedding***

- Please finalise payments.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact the Dean:

*The Very Rev'd Jeremy Greaves*  
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