



Marriage
at
St Michael & All Angels

Welcome!

Congratulations on your engagement! We are delighted that you are exploring the possibility of celebrating your marriage at St Michael & All Angels.

Who can be married at St Michael & All Angels?

The Anglican Church requires that one or both of you be baptized Christians. This baptism may have happened in any number of Christian denominations, not just the Anglican Church. In coming to the Christian Church for marriage we provide for people to make their commitment to one another before God and with God's blessing in the Christian way as expressed in the Anglican tradition. It may be that this is the first meaningful connection you have ever had with a Church, in which case you may want to explore the associated 'big questions' – What do you really believe about life and how do you find meaning? What values do you bring to marriage? How will we bring up any children of your marriage, if that is desired? The parish priest will be happy to explore any of this with you.

Who can be the celebrant at the marriage?

Only the Anglican rite of marriage may be used in Anglican churches, and this must be used by an ordained and licensed Anglican clergy person. By default, the parish priest will be the celebrant, but if you know another Anglican clergy person whom you would like to be involved then this is possible. It is also possible to have clergy or a pastor from another church involved by the invitation of the parish priest, but they may not perform the marriage itself.

What about preparation?

The Anglican Church encourages preparation for marriage beyond that of the ceremony itself. We will strongly encourage you to attend a certified and reputable marriage preparation course by a qualified provider.

What if my partner isn't a Christian?

It's entirely likely these days that couples will be from different Christian denominations, or even different religions entirely, or for there to be no religious association at all. This is not a barrier to your marriage in St Michael & All Angels, but we recommend differences of culture and religion be explored in detail between yourselves well in advance of the wedding. Marriage preparation can assist with this, and the parish priest will be happy to assist in any way.

What about music?

Music arrangements can be discussed with our Director of Music, Robert Graham. Robert can play piano and pipe organ, and is comfortable across a wide range of musical styles. Additional musicians and singers are welcome, but arrangements need to be discussed with Robert in advance. Recorded music alongside the live music may be permitted, but we cannot be as confident about the quality of that.

What about flowers and decorations?

You are welcome to arrange a professional florist to help decorate the church for your marriage. The florist must be in contact with the parish priest to ensure the appropriate placement of floral arrangements. Ribbons, bows and other decorations are also fine. Flowers and decorations must be placed and removed just before and after the wedding.

What about photography and videography?

We want you to have a great record of your marriage, and want guests to be fully present to what is happening. So we strongly discourage any guests from taking private photos or video, and let your nominated professional (or amateur) be responsible for capturing the event. We have guidelines for photographers/videographers which will be provided to you to pass on to them.

What about confetti?

In the interest of the environment, preventing slipping hazards, and cleanliness, we only can allow a form of Dried Petal Eco Confetti to be used outside the church.

What about rehearsing?

A full rehearsal (but not a dress rehearsal) for everyone involved, including bridesmaids, groomsmen, witnesses, readers, musicians etc., will be arranged with the parish priest a few days prior to the ceremony.

What about legal documents?

The parish priest will need to see original copies of your birth certificates, and where necessary, divorce papers and/or death certificates. If you are born overseas a valid passport is fine.

When?

We are available for weddings most days of the year. We are not available on Sundays or in very close proximity to Christmas or Easter. Some other dates may not be available so it's best to get in early to enquire.

How long does the ceremony take?

On average a wedding ceremony takes place within 30 minutes. If it is a Nuptial Mass (i.e. Holy Communion is celebrated) it can take about 50 minutes.

How much?

We don't charge 'fees' for the pastoral ministry of the Church. All Christian sacraments are free, as God's grace is a sheer gift. We do seek to cover our expenses however and ask a donation of \$1,000.00 to cover these. **If cost is a barrier, please mention this during the initial interview so we can explore options to assist.**

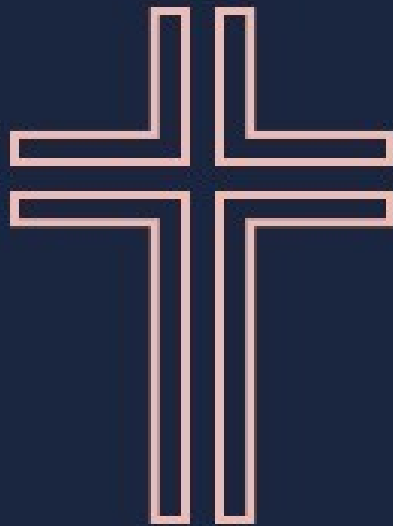
Where to from here?

Once you have read this booklet, please contact the parish via the contact details on the back of this booklet to make an appointment to see the parish priest. During this meeting the details and options for the ceremony can be discussed and a tentative booking made.

It would be very helpful if you also downloaded and completed the Notice of Intended Marriage and brought this to the meeting along with the legal documentation referred to earlier.

We have tried to be as upfront and clear about things as possible in this booklet, but you will find us also to be extremely warm and welcoming, and genuinely pleased to be able to provide this service for you. If you have any questions, please do get in touch with us.

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