Parish of
Our Lady of the
Southern Cross



Information for the *Sacrament of Marriage*



St John the Baptist,
Clifton Hill

St Joseph's,
Collingwood



This booklet is to be read and accepted by both the prospective bride and groom before the booking can be confirmed.

1. Introduction

Thank you for inquiring about celebrating your marriage ceremony in the Parish of Our Lady of the Southern Cross (OLSC).

We would ask that together, as the prospective bride and groom, read through the information in this booklet which explains the details and process of the Parish for the celebration of marriage.

Once you have read the material and if you are happy to go ahead on the basis of what you have read, please refer to section 13 on how to make a booking.

2. A Marriage Built on Faith

We are a Catholic Parish and we are happy for our Churches to be used by those people who wish to enter into the Sacrament of Marriage in harmony with the teachings and practices of our faith.

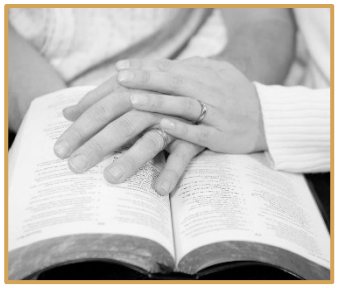
The two of you must really wish to celebrate a Christian marriage in the Catholic tradition. It is helpful to know that Catholic priests and deacons are only authorised by the Government to celebrate Catholic weddings in which one of the parties is a baptised Catholic and in which the rites of the Catholic Church are used.

> "Love is patient, love is kind.
> It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.
> It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking,
> it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.
> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.
> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."
>
> 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

The Catholic Church understands marriage to be exclusive, permanent and open to the gift of new life. For a Catholic marriage to go ahead, both parties need to be fully committed to all three dimensions.

You must intend to be faithful to each other in every respect, you must intend to remain together and build a community of love for the rest of your lives, and you must be ready and willing to accept the gift of children, should God give you this gift.

You need to discuss all this carefully before confirming your booking.



You must also wish to enter into a Christian marriage. This means that you recognise and are open to the importance of God in your life, and that the life and teachings of Jesus are important to you both. A Catholic wedding would be appropriate only if you feel this way. You may be just at the beginning of your journey of faith, but you need to have at least started on this before you enter into a Christian marriage.

3. Celebrant

The celebrant, either a Priest or Deacon, who will celebrate your wedding will assist in your marriage preparation as well as assisting and advising on the format of your wedding, and the required government documents prior to your wedding. You are welcome to invite another Catholic Priest to celebrate your wedding. This Priest should be in contact with our OLSC Parish Priest and office to confirm the timing and details of your wedding day and rehearsal.

As part of your marriage preparation, you are required to make an initial appointment with the celebrant at least 12 weeks prior to your wedding day so that both the Church and government documents can be completed and submitted within the required time, and marriage preparation arranged.

4. Ceremony

At the time of your booking, you will indicate whether you intend to have a Nuptial Mass. Further details of the ceremony can be worked out with the celebrant prior to your wedding.

5. Dates and Times

Weddings are held on Saturdays (at both Churches in our Parish). If you would like to first enquire about the availability of dates prior to submitting the booking form, please call our Parish office on +61 39481 7333 during office hours (Monday to Friday, 9am – 3pm) or you can contact us by email: office@olsc.org.au

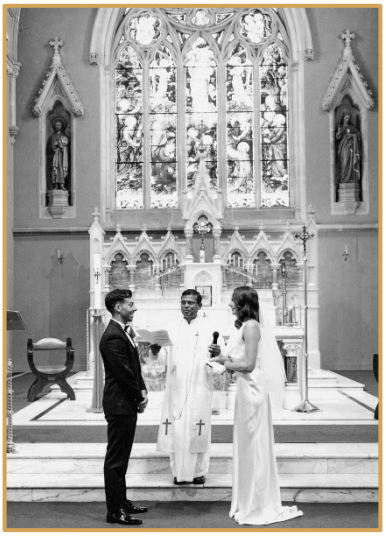
Important Liturgical Dates

There is limited availability during the time of Lent (Ash Wednesday through to the beginning of Holy Week).

Dates when weddings cannot be booked in our Parish:

- ◊ 1st November (Solemnity: All Saints)
- ◊ 2nd November (All Souls Day)
- ◊ 24th December to 26th December

If your booking is on a day which is not listed above but which is a Solemnity in the Catholic Church, the scripture readings of the day are mandatory.



Times

The time of your booking is the time that the bride needs to arrive at the Church. Please be aware that if the starting time is delayed, then it may be necessary for the ceremony to be shortened or even postponed; this is to cater for other Priestly appointments or Church obligations. On the day of your wedding, the Church will be open one hour prior to the booked time of the ceremony.

6. Costs

The fee is $1,500 for the hire of the Church, and $300 for the celebrant (either a Priest or a Deacon).

A deposit of $300 is payable as the booking deposit to secure your booking, with the other $1,500 due one month before the wedding date.

If you have your own celebrant, they will inform you of what the fee is for their service, and you would pay them separately to this Parish. Your cost will then be only for the hire of the Church – with the deposit being $300, and the remainder due being $1,200.

7. Decorations and Features

Floral Decorations



The fee outlined above also includes Church flowers – one white arrangement on a stand on each side of the altar. If you wish to provide other flowers, you can do so but the flowers already in the Church need to stay in place.

Please note: we do not provide flowers during Lenten season.

Personal arrangements need to be made for floral decorations in the Church used for your wedding and their placement in the Church. Floral arrangements can be delivered to the Church upon prior agreement with the office staff.

Pew Decorations

These are not provided by the Church, and are optional. They can be attached to the pews only by elastic or string (no attachments with pins, tacks, BluTack, etc which can cause considerable damage to the wood). Any pew decorations must be put in place upon prior arrangement with the office staff. Please make sure that you arrange for someone to remove and collect them immediately after the ceremony.

Additional Decorations

Items such as confetti, rice, sugar-almonds, flower petals, etc are not permitted within the Church or on Church grounds. Please ensure that all guests are aware of this.

For other possible celebrations, please talk to the office staff.

Wedding Booklets

If you wish to produce a wedding service booklet, it must be in accord with the Catholic Rite of marriage and only the authorised texts of the Catholic marriage service may be used, and in consultation with your Priest/Deacon. The Parish Office will also check the booklet in reference to use of hymns and copyright.

8. Music



Your wedding is a religious ceremony, and as such the music chosen should reflect the sacred nature of the ceremony, as well as being appropriate for a Catholic wedding in a Catholic Church. Your choice of music must consist of only hymns, classical or instrumental songs, and approved by the celebrant before the day of your wedding - secular (pop) songs are not permitted in either of our Churches. The Parish Office can offer advice as to copyright for music used.

You are welcome to organise your own musicians, or have music on a USB that can be played on the laptop connected to our sound system.

9. Photos and Videos

Photography and videography are permitted in the Church, provided your photographers consult with the celebrant before the ceremony.

10. Rehearsal

Rehearsals need to be booked well in advance with our office staff, and confirmed with your celebrant.

Please invite all those you wish to be present and those with an active part in the wedding ceremony.

11. Pre-Marriage Formation



In order to help you with your step into marriage, we require all couples marrying in an OLSC Church to undertake a pre-marriage formation course. These programs are designed to help you explore key aspects of married life and support you in building a strong, happy, and lasting marriage.

There are a few options available for you; some involve a weekend programme, and some involve a number of evening meetings. Attendance at one of these pre-marriage courses is an absolute requirement before a marriage can be celebrated at one of our OLSC Churches.

Some suggested courses are:

- Smart Loving
- Catholic Care Vic
- Pre Cana

12. Legalities and Documentation



You will need to have a couple of sessions with the Priest or Deacon who will celebrate your wedding. There is a significant amount of paper work, both government and Church, which need to be completed.

If you have chosen to have your celebrant be from our OLSC Parish, you will need to meet with him at least three months prior to your wedding date. Otherwise contact your chosen celebrant.

All Documents mentioned below will need to be forwarded to the Parish office prior to the initial meeting. As a result of this meeting, further documentation may be requested. More details of these will be provided following your booking enquiry form.

Documentation

The following are the three legal documents that both the bride and groom will need to present in the initial meeting with your celebrant:

- **Full Birth Certificate** – this cannot be a copy/extract.
  - If born overseas, a NAATI certified translation of a birth certificate.
- **Current Australian Driver's Licence**
- **Current Passport**

Certificates

The following are the certificates that you will need to present in the initial meeting with your celebrant:

- **Baptism Certificate** – this must be a recent copy (within 6 months) from the Parish of Baptism, whether Catholic or other Christian religion.
- **Permission to Marry Certificate** – if the bride is Catholic and not an OLSC Parishioner: from the Parish of current residence.
- **Freedom to Marry Certificate** – if the groom is Catholic and not an OLSC Parishioner: from the Parish of current residence.
- **Pre-Marriage Formation Course certificate**

Forms

There are three legal forms that you need to fill out prior to your initial meeting:

- **Pre-Nuptial Inquiry form**
- **Declaration of No Legal Impediment to Marriage form**
- **Notice of Intended Marriage form**

13. How to Book



Once you have read this introductory information provided about marrying in one of our OLSC Churches, and would like to proceed with booking your wedding, please download our **'Wedding Booking Form'**, fill it in then email it to office@olsc.org.au.

Upon receiving your form, we will be in touch with you to begin organising your special day.

If you have any questions, please ask – we will do our best to make the celebration of your Marriage a joyous and blessed occasion.

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