

Weddings at St Christopher's Cathedral

Times/days

Weddings are held at St Christopher's Cathedral on most Saturdays of the year, at the times of 1.30pm & 3.00pm.

Church offering

The church offering required is \$900.00. This should be made within the first few months of booking. (The Stole Fee for your celebrant is included in this offering.)

In the event of a cancellation, a full reimbursement excluding \$50 will be given if made sooner than six months before the booked date. The cancellation fee increases after this time, to a maximum of \$300 if made within a month prior to the booked date.

Pre-requisites to book

Bookings must be made at least six months in advance. At least one of the couple must be Catholic, and both must be free to marry in the Catholic Church.

To make a booking, please contact the Parish Office. The booking will be pencilled in only, and not confirmed until you have engaged a celebrant (Catholic priest or deacon) to marry you. If you are not a parishioner of the Cathedral parish, it is expected that you will approach your own parish priest / deacon, or one known personally to you. The Parish Office can help you out with contact details for other celebrants in the Archdiocese if you require these.

Once a priest or deacon has agreed to marry you on your preferred date, you can contact the Parish Office again to confirm your booking, and a letter of booking confirmation and additional information will be posted to you.

Music / Organist

No secular music is permitted at weddings at the Cathedral. The music selected must be liturgically appropriate and, if printed as lyrics in your service booklet, must meet with copyright regulations (see section 'Printing of service booklet' below, and accompanying link).

Your selection may include recorded music; facilities are available for this, but you must designate someone to operate the audio equipment from the sacristy.

Ideally your live music should be provided by one of the Cathedral organists; contact details will be found in your booking confirmation letter. (Please note that if you would like to engage one of our organists, you MUST contact them yourself; the Parish Office will not do this for you.) They can also recommend an appropriate soloist if desired; it is discouraged to have external musicians/groups play or sing at your wedding.

Marriage Preparation

It is compulsory for couples to undertake a Marriage Preparation course before marrying. Suggested courses are Evenings for the Engaged (contact Pru and Peter Grist at prugordon@gmail.com) Catholic Engaged Encounter (call 02 9990 3212 or visit www.engagedencounter.org.au), or FOCCUS (call CatholicCare on 02 6162 6100, or visit www.catholiccare.cg.org.au and select 'Pre-Marriage Education' under the 'Counselling Services' tab) or an online course - <https://smartloving.org/engaged/>. Please be guided by your intended celebrant on this.

Nuptial Mass or Ceremony

Whether you decide on a Nuptial Mass or a Ceremony only for your wedding is a faith issue, to be discussed with your intended celebrant. A Nuptial Mass, in which the Liturgy of the Eucharist and Holy Communion take place, will be of a longer duration than a Ceremony only. In either case your wedding must follow the official liturgy of the Church. Your readings must be from Sacred Scripture (a translation of the Bible approved by the Catholic Church); they cannot be poems, reflections, or paraphrases. Vows cannot be freely composed.

Printing of service booklet

Any printing of hymn texts, scripture texts, or liturgical texts in your wedding booklet must comply, under Australian law, with our copyright requirements; please refer to these via the following [link](#)

Celebrant matters

Your intended celebrant will guide you in the matters of Marriage Preparation, Government and Church paperwork required, preparation of your wedding booklet, arrangements for a wedding rehearsal, etc.

Punctuality

Due to the nature of bookings at the Cathedral, the bridal party must be on time.

Decorations

The only decorations permitted are bows for the pews, and additional flower arrangements. Provided by the Cathedral year-round are three flower arrangements – two on the sanctuary either side of the Cathedra (Archbishop's Chair) and one at the baptistery. If you add your own

arrangements, you must provide your own vessels for them. No rice, flower petals, or confetti, etc, are permitted inside or outside the Cathedral.

Weddings in Lent

In keeping with the austerity and penitential spirit of the liturgical season, no flowers or decorations are permitted for weddings celebrated during Lent (the forty days leading up to Easter).

Photography/videography

A photographer/videographer is permitted at your wedding under the condition that they not enter the sanctuary at any time, and that they abide by the instructions of the marriage celebrant or the sacristan on duty.

Parking, facilities, capacity

The seating capacity at St Christopher's is 650. Toilets can be accessed on the Canberra Avenue side of the building; wheelchair access into the building is available on the Franklin Street side. Parking is available in the Catholic Education Office carpark opposite the Cathedral, in the multistorey carpark across the street, and on surrounding streetsides.