



St Mary's Cathedral

St Marys Road
Sydney NSW 2000
Tel (02) 9220 0400
Fax (02) 9223 5208
www.stmaryscathedral.org.au
info@stmaryscathedral.org.au

WEDDINGS AT ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL 2012

PRIEST CELEBRANT

Those from outside the Cathedral Parish are required to supply their own priest celebrant (or deacon) who must possess the faculties of the Archdiocese of Sydney. He will guide them through the process of preparation and will be responsible for all the papers, both Government and Church. Celebrants are required to ensure all printed material complies with the current copyright law. At the time of booking the Cathedral a letter from the priest confirming his availability for the chosen date and time needs to be presented. Catholics are asked to give to the officiating priest or deacon at least six months notice of their wedding.

Documents needed for priest celebrant:

- Baptism Certificate (issued within a period of six months prior to the wedding).
- A full copy of Certificate of Birth (a current non-Australian Passport will suffice for those born overseas).
- Marriage declaration forms will be filled in by the priest.

Pre-marriage education courses:

These are recommended by both the Church and the Government. There are many such courses around Sydney each year and you are encouraged to book early as numbers are limited. A leaflet with more details is available at the Cathedral or you can log on to: <http://www.sydney.catholic.org.au/Works/marriage.shtml>

Spiritual Preparation:

Catholics are reminded that the proper spiritual preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage is a devout reception of the *Sacraments of Penance and the Blessed Eucharist*.

Marriage booklets:

Books to assist you in preparing your ceremony are available at Pre-Marriage Courses or at Catholic bookstores.

BOOKINGS FOR WEDDINGS

A proposed time and date should be checked with the Cathedral office:

9220 0400 or info@stmaryscathedral.org.au.

A tentative booking can be made which needs to be confirmed within four weeks of being made by completing the Wedding Booking Form and returning it with payment in full. This form (pdf file) can be downloaded from

http://www.stmaryscathedral.org.au/pdf/Application_Form_for_marriage.pdf

or you can contact the Cathedral office for a copy.

Offering for Weddings:

- The fee for a Cathedral wedding is \$1500 (this does not include the cost of the Cathedral organist)
- The fee for a wedding in the Cathedral Crypt is \$1500 (this does not include the cost of the Cathedral organist)
- The fee for a wedding in the Lady Chapel is \$1500 (this does not include the cost of the Cathedral organist)
- \$150 will be retained if a cancellation occurs.

Offerings for Priest Celebrant:

- It is normal to make an offering to the priest who celebrates the wedding.
- This is not included in the above Cathedral fee.

Smaller Weddings:

- If you have a small number of guests (up to 100) you may wish your ceremony to be celebrated at the Lady Chapel behind the High Altar.

Wedding Rehearsals:

Wedding rehearsals are conducted between 2.00pm and 4.30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday (subject to availability). Arrangements need to be made with the Cathedral Office on (02) 9220 0400.

Parking:

There is no parking in the Cathedral grounds.

An Enacon (Public) Parking Station is located at the southern end of the Cathedral, underneath the new Cathedral Square. Entry is via Cathedral Street. Special arrangements can be made for weddings by contacting the Enacon on (02) 9380 8850.

Restoration of the Cathedral:

St Mary's is 130 years old, and is currently undergoing a restoration program. Stonework is being repaired and a wide range of associated construction work is being carried out over the next few years. Regular Masses and ceremonies will continue, and it is not expected that normal functions of the building will be impeded during the restoration phase. Prospective wedding parties need to be aware, however, that from time to time the Cathedral will have scaffolding, hoardings or other building material evident - either inside or outside the building. We apologise for this inconvenience, but feel sure that you will agree that the efforts to enhance the beauty of this historic church will be well worthwhile.

CATHEDRAL REGULATIONS

Punctuality: Because of the nature of bookings for the Cathedral, brides are asked to be on time. Please arrive at the foot of the main stairs at least 15 minutes before the scheduled time of marriage to allow sufficient time for photographs.

Throwing of confetti, etc: The use of confetti, rice, flower petals etc. is totally prohibited within St Mary's Cathedral or on the property. Candles other than marriage candles are totally prohibited in the Cathedral and Crypt and Lady Chapel. The marriage candle must come with a dish to prevent dripping on the sanctuary floor and furnishings.

Ushers:

Please note that as the Cathedral will remain open to the public, people visiting the Cathedral, who are not guests of the wedding, will be restricted to the rear of the Cathedral.

Photography and Video:

Photographers are welcome in the Cathedral to record your ceremony provided they are discreet. The photographer must consult with the Sacristan, Mr. Chris Backhouse, before the wedding begins and photograph from the designated areas. Flash photography is not permitted during the ceremony. Please give the photographer's a copy of the notes for photographers and video personnel. The use of video in the Cathedral is permitted. Flood lighting is not permitted. Successful video in the Cathedral is difficult to achieve due to the changing light. The video camera person is permitted to walk around the Cathedral during the wedding ceremony provided they are discreet, but are not permitted at any time within the sanctuary area. As with photographers, video people must consult with the Sacristan, Chris Backhouse, before the wedding.

MUSIC AT WEDDINGS

You must contact the Cathedral's Music Administrator whether or not you wish to have music at your wedding to let her know your intentions.

Ms Mar'yana Sywak
St Mary's Cathedral
St Mary's Road
Sydney NSW 2000
Office (02) 9220 0481
Mobile 0457 879 296
music@stmaryscathedral.org.au

Both the Cathedral and its Crypt are large, resonant spaces. The Cathedral organs are uniquely designed to fill these spaces adequately and the Cathedral organists are professional musicians who are experts at providing appropriate liturgical music. Experience has shown that music performed by other instruments without the assistance of the organ has little impact and is ultimately underwhelming.

If you wish to have any music at your Wedding you must first book a Cathedral Organist through the Music Administrator.

Additional musicians such as singers and/or instrumentalists may be booked on your behalf by the Cathedral's Music Department. Only musicians booked by the Cathedral's Music Department may perform in St Mary's Cathedral or its Crypt.

If you would like music at your Wedding the first step is to arrange a meeting with one of the Cathedral Organists through the Music Administrator. You may choose music for your wedding in consultation with one of the Cathedral Organists. All music performed in the Cathedral must have been approved by the Music Department. It must be liturgically appropriate and will be performed live. It is not permitted to play recorded music at the Cathedral. Only Cathedral organists may play the Cathedral organs.

Soloists and Choir:

The Cathedral can provide a professional soloist to sing at your wedding. Please let the Music administrator know if you would like to book a soloist.

The boys of the Cathedral Choir are not available to sing at Weddings.

The Cathedral can provide a professional adult choir. If you would like a choir to sing please contact the Music Administrator:

(02) 9220 0464

music@stmaryscathedral.org.au

It is not permitted to engage external professional singers or choirs to sing at Weddings. Cathedral soloists or choristers must be engaged through the Cathedral Music Administrator.

Music Fees:

Organist: \$330

Soloist: \$220

Choir: \$2000 (this includes 8 singers, organist and conductor)

All music fees must be paid in full two weeks before your wedding. If you fail to make full payment in advance the musicians will be cancelled.

Please send a cheque or money order for the music fees made payable to St. Mary's Cathedral, to:

Music Administrator

St Mary's Cathedral

St Mary's Road

Sydney NSW 2000

Please be sure to include details of your wedding with the cheque.

BOOKING THE CATHEDRAL BELLS

The St Mary's Basilica Society of Change Ringers is a voluntary group, under the patronage of the Cardinal, whose chief aim is to ring the Cathedral's bells on Sundays, and for other occasions, both sacred and secular. We are delighted that you are interested in having bells rung for your wedding. Their joyful sound will add special significance to the occasion, announcing far and wide the happiness of the ceremony in the Cathedral below.

Our fee is \$500 and the bells are normally rung for 20 minutes before and 20 minutes after the ceremony. To book bells, please complete and return the *booking form* (pdf) at least two months before the wedding is due to take place. Please note that we are not able to ring for weddings that take place in the Crypt. Your booking will be confirmed by letter.

St Mary's Basilica Society of Change Ringers

C/- St Mary's Cathedral

St Mary's Road,

SYDNEY NSW 2000

or phone Katherine Downs on 0438 697 809.

FLOWERS AND PEW DECORATIONS

Except during the season of Lent (Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday) you are most welcome to provide flowers and pew decorations. During the season of Lent – a six week period usually falling during the months of February, March and April – NO

FLOWERS OR DECORATIONS ARE PERMISSIBLE IN KEEPING WITH THE AUSTERITY AND PENITENTIAL SPIRIT OF THE SEASON.

Flowers:

You have the following options regarding flowers -
Except during the season of Lent, a florist provides flowers each week for the Cathedral. This comprises of one large arrangement for the front of the sanctuary and two smaller arrangements for the High Altar. These arrangements are quite sufficient for a wedding.

However, you may wish to organize a florist of your choice to deliver arrangements of flowers as follows:

- Your florist must organize a delivery time by phoning the Sacristan the Thursday prior to the wedding on 9220 0449 or email at cbackhouse@stmaryscathedral.org.au
- Flowers provided must be left in the Cathedral as a gift from the bride and groom.

Pew Decorations:

Given the large number of pews in the Cathedral, it is recommended that only some of these be decorated. This can be organized by yourself or the florist. Decorations should be placed on the pews as close to the starting time of your wedding as possible to avoid accidental removal by Cathedral visitors. Please note that care should be taken in attaching these decorations to the pews. Decorations should be tied on or attached with elastic. Products such as pins, sticky tape, blue-tac, etc cause permanent seat damage and must not be used. Unfortunately the Cathedral Staff is unable to take responsibility for the holding, attachment, removal or storage of these items. If you wish to keep your decorations please ensure that you organize someone to collect them or they may be left to decorate the shrines.

If you require further assistance please contact the Sacristan Chris Backhouse (Wednesday - Sunday on 9220 0449 or email cbackhouse@stmaryscathedral.org.au

NOTES FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS AND VIDEO PERSONNEL

Inside St Mary's Cathedral the use of still cameras and video cameras is limited.

The following are not allowed:

- Extra light (floodlights, flash lights during the ceremony);
- Entry by photographers onto the altar area (the Sanctuary; or
- Moving from the photographers designated position during the wedding ceremony.

The following is permitted:

- When the bridal party moves to the table outside the altar for the signing ceremony, photographers may move from the designated position to the table outside the altar area.

Photographers will not be permitted to photograph inside the Cathedral at all unless they have registered with the Cathedral Sacristan at least 10 minutes prior to the time set for the ceremony to begin.