

WEDDINGS AT ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL 2010 - 2011

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.

Booking 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](http://www.stmaryscathedral.org.au/pdf/Application%20Form%20for%20marriage.pdf) or you can contact the Cathedral office for a copy.

Offering for Weddings:

- The fee for a Cathedral wedding is \$1500 (this includes the fee for the organist)
- The fee for a wedding in the Cathedral Crypt is \$1500 (this includes the fee for the organist)
- The fee for a wedding in the Lady Chapel is \$1500 (this includes the fee for the organist). Please be aware that there is no forward altar. The proceeds back is for the people.
- \$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 from Thursday to Fridays. Arrangements need to be made with the Cathedral Office on 02 9220 0400.

Parking:

There is no parking in the Cathedral grounds.

An Enacon 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.

Reading and Music:

These must be liturgically appropriate. Music must be coordinated with the Cathedral organist Mr Peter Kneeshaw. The Cathedral Organ must be used if you are having music. Electronic keyboards and recorded music are not permitted (see also below). Australian copyright laws must be followed if you are preparing a Service Booklet for the congregation.

Ushers:

Ushers will be provided for weddings and 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, Chris Backhouse, before the wedding begins and photograph from the designated areas. Flash photography is not permitted during the ceremony. Please give a 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:

Organist: When you book your wedding at St Mary's Cathedral please complete the top section of the *Choosing your Wedding Music form* (pdf) and send it to the Cathedral Organist, Mr Peter Kneeshaw, 85 Beechworth Road, Pymble NSW 2073.

It is policy that if you are having music, the Cathedral Organ must be used and only the Cathedral Organist, or one of his assistant organists, provides the organ music at weddings.

To make arrangements and booking, please contact Peter Kneeshaw by email Kneeshawp@optusnet.com.au or phone 0412 098 889, (02) 9144 4915 and send in the *Choosing your Wedding Music form*. If he is not available, please leave a message, including your name, the date and time of your wedding, and telephone number, and he will call you back within a few days. He must be contacted before any arrangements are made for music at weddings.

Choice of Music: You may choose music for your wedding but it must be performed live and liturgically appropriate.

Your choice must be approved by the Cathedral Organist who will assist you if required.

It is usual to have music for the bride's entrance, the exit of the wedding party and during the signing of the register. If you are having a Mass there will be opportunities for additional music during the Procession of Gifts and Holy Communion. A soloist may also sing at these and other times, e.g. the Psalm or the Holy, Holy, Holy.

Synthesisers, electronic music and popular songs are not permitted. These are more appropriate at the festivities of the reception after the ceremony and/or Mass.

Choir and Soloists: The Cathedral Choir may be available to sing for a wedding. Please contact Elizabeth Swain eswain@bigpond.com. If it is not available, The St Mary's Singers may be able to sing. With the permission of the Cathedral Organist you may provide your own singer or choir. The Cathedral will provide a music stand and amplification if required.

Payment of the Organist's Fee: If you did not pay the organist's fee when you booked the Cathedral, the fee must be paid in full two weeks before your wedding. This may be done by sending a cheque or money order, made payable to St Mary's Cathedral, to Mr Peter Kneeshaw, 85 Beechwood Road, Pymble NSW 2073.

BOOKING THE CATHEDRAL BELLS FOR YOUR WEDDING:

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

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 0400 887 119.

- 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. Other products such as pins, sticky tape, bluetac, etc cause permanent seat damage.

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 (02) 9220 9449.

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);

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- **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.**