

Getting Married in Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Parish

Your wedding day is one of the most important days of your life. Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Parish welcomes you with great joy as you celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage. To assist you in your preparations we have compiled the following information:

- General information about getting married in Our Lady of Fatima Parish, including: -
- Legal requirements
- Documentation required
- Church costs
- Musicians and singers
- FAQ etc.
- Marriage Enquiry Form
- Marriage Preparation Options



Legal Requirements to be married in the Catholic Church

To be legally married in the Catholic Church you must be able to answer 'yes' to the following:

- ✓ I am over 18 years of age
- ✓ I am legally able to get married under the laws of the Australian Government. (i.e. you are not presently married)
- ✓ I am legally able to get married under the laws of the Catholic Church (i.e. you have never been married before or, if you have, then you have been through the Church annulment process and have received an annulment from the Church)
- ✓ You are both prepared to complete a Marriage Preparation Course before you get married.

Church Costs

The parish asks for a donation of \$500 to cover our costs. We do not want to place additional financial burdens upon you. The donation covers the church expenses of:

- ✚ Donation to the church, which includes offsetting cleaning, electrical, insurance and other maintenance costs.
- ✚ Lodgment of all civil and canonical documents.
- ✚ The Priest's/Deacon's stipend

The Documents each of you will need to provide a copy of are:

- ✓ Your birth certificates
- ✓ Recent copies of your baptismal and Confirmation Certificates (at least one of the parties to be married must be baptised Catholic)
- ✓ Any other relevant documentation (i.e. copies of annulments, divorce decree etc.)
- ✓ A certificate indicating the completion of your Marriage Preparation Program (when you have completed your course)

Marriage Preparation Options

Entering into marriage is one of the biggest decisions anybody makes in his or her lifetime. The Church strongly recommends that couples undertake some kind of formal preparation for marriage to help them understand the nature of marriage and the many human complexities of married life.

Following are the current options available for marriage preparation in the local area:

- **Centacare Brisbane** - Pre-Marriage Education Group Courses and FOCCUS Program (individual Pre-Marriage Education)
<https://centacarebrisbane.net.au/marriage-and-relationship/pre-marriage-education/>
- **Lighthouse Relationships** (Individual or Group Pre-Marriage Sessions, also Online) All information can be found at www.lighthouserelationships.com.au Email: admin@lighthouserelationships.com.au
Mb: 0438 645 708

A couple can discuss these options with the priest who is officiating at their wedding.

It is advisable to plan to do the marriage preparation three to six months before the wedding.

Wedding Musicians and Singers

Musicians and Singers

Liturgical and Sacred music are integral parts of your ceremony. You can organize your musicians and singers.

Of course a lot of modern love songs are appropriate for weddings, but they belong at the reception, not in the religious ceremony.

Frequently Asked Questions

What if a Catholic is Marrying a Person Who is Not a Catholic?

When a Catholic marries a Christian from another Church or a non-Christian in a Catholic church, the celebrant is required to complete an application for the necessary permission or dispensation.

Catholic partners are asked to promise to do all in their power to share their faith with their children by having them baptised and brought up in the Catholic faith. The Catholic party must inform the other partner of this promise and sign the declaration. No promise is required of the other partner.

The minister of the non-Catholic partner may be invited to participate in the celebration of the marriage in a Catholic church, for example, by reading from the Scriptures, leading a prayer, or blessing the couple.

Sometimes a Catholic will want to get married in another Christian church or outside a church. When there is sufficient reason, such a marriage for a Catholic may be recognized by the Catholic Church. This is a possibility you should discuss with your parish priest.

How Do I Make a Wedding Booking?

Please complete the Marriage Enquiry Form available from the 'Getting Married in Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Parish' page. Once you have completed the form email it to: acaciari@bne.catholic.net.au.

Can we use confetti, rice, bubbles?

No. Please inform your guests that the use of confetti, rice, rose petals, bubbles or similar substances is not permitted in our church or in the surrounding precinct. Likewise, butterflies are not to be released.

Can I afford to be a little late?

No, most weekends there are several activities in our churches and these will commence on time. Also, on these days our priests normally have other commitments which cannot be changed or pushed back. From our experience, we would suggest that the bridal party arrives no later than ten minutes before the due start time of your wedding ceremony, which will allow time for the photographer to take the required photos.

What time will the Church be available on the day of our wedding?

The church is normally available one hour prior to your start time. Weddings cannot start any later than 2:00pm at our church due to Saturday Vigil Mass.

How do we access the Church on the day of our wedding and for rehearsal?

The church will either already be open or you may need to collect keys from the Parish Office. Parish Office staff are not generally available to attend the church on the day of your wedding.

Does my wedding ceremony have to be a Mass?

Our parish priests are asked this question a lot! The answer is no. When you get married in a Catholic church you have the option of a 'Wedding Ceremony' or a 'Nuptial Mass'. A Wedding Ceremony celebrates the Liturgy of the Word and includes gospel readings (which you select with your priest) and the Liturgy of Marriage, where you exchange vows and rings and the priest will pray a nuptial blessing over you. A full Nuptial Mass includes the above celebrations and is followed by the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

The parish will discuss these options with you and help you choose what's best for you and your family.

How do we put our Liturgy together?

A priest will assist you in preparing your wedding liturgy.