

Getting married in the Church



"Marriage is a gift from God"

CONGRATULATIONS!

This is an important and a significant decision in your relationship. It will be a happy and busy time for you. We hope that your preparation for your marriage is a wonderful and enriching time as you plan your life together. Be assured of the Church's prayers for you as you make your preparations.

By choosing to be married in a Christian church you choose to come together as a couple before God to make vows to one another and to ask God's guidance and blessing on your future together. The decisions, promises and commitment you will make will be binding upon you for life, and in coming to the Church for marriage, you are asking God to be part of your marriage. The Church of God therefore feels a continuing care and responsibility for you both.

As part of your preparation we invite you to join us regularly at worship. This helps us to know you better, and gives you a real opportunity of involving God in your life and in your marriage. Please check the website or call the parish office for details of service times.

As time goes by we encourage you to continue your commitment to the church, to bring your children up in the faith and to seek counsel whenever you need it.

In this booklet you will find some general information about weddings in the Anglican Church, as well as specific information about the Anglican Church in the parish of Toronto. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or would like any more information.

We look forward to assisting you with your wedding.
God bless you both as you make your preparations.

We pray that your wedding will be a happy and holy occasion and that your marriage will be a source of great joy for you both.

WHAT THE CHURCH REQUIRES

1. A CHURCH WEDDING

We welcome all enquiries for weddings in the Church of Christ the King. However, under certain circumstances we are also able to marry a couple in another non-church venue or outside of a church building. Please discuss this when you make your enquiry. Arrangements for the different venues do vary so be sure to be in touch early in order to complete the necessary requirements.

Those who wish to marry following divorce are also welcome. Again there are certain requirements for preparation which are conducted with care and sensitivity to allow a couple to come to terms with the past and make a new beginning.

2. BAPTISM

Marriage is a Christian sacrament - one of the "gifts" God gives to members of his Church. Both parties to the marriage ought to be baptised, but at least one of the parties to the marriage must be baptised. If you are not baptised, suitable instruction in the faith can be arranged.

3. PREPARATION

"Scripture teaches that marriage is a life-long partnership uniting a woman and man in heart, mind and body."

The Church is most concerned that you make your promises with complete understanding of the deep commitment Christian marriage involves. Please read over the service together so that you can come to an understanding of what you are to promise and receive. Your marriage is a new beginning in your relationship. The government recommends all who are planning to be married undertake a marriage preparation course. We offer the internationally renowned PREPARE-ENRICH program supported by accredited facilitators.

4. WE WILL PRAY FOR YOU AND YOUR FUTURE TOGETHER.

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT REQUIRES

Marriage is celebrated within the framework of the Commonwealth Marriage Act (1961). Failure to comply with all the provisions of the Marriage Act involves heavy penalties, invalidation of the marriage, and possible gaol terms.

A. LEGAL DOCUMENTATION

A number of Legal Documents must be signed as part of the marriage contract.

ALL LEGAL DOCUMENTATION IS ARRANGED BY THE CELEBRANT.

1. NOTIFICATION OF INTENDED MARRIAGE

Must be signed and witnessed NO LATER THAN ONE FULL MONTH (31 days) before the Marriage and no more than 18 months before the marriage. This is usually completed at the first interview or it can be accessed online and posted to the celebrant. http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/bdm_mge.html

2. DECLARATIONS

Statutory Declarations as to legal fitness of the couple to be married are usually made and then witnessed by the Celebrant at your wedding rehearsal.

3. MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES

Three certificates will be signed on the day of the marriage. One is sent to Births, Deaths and Marriages, one is kept by the Church and one is handed to the couple. You will also receive a form to apply to Births, Deaths and Marriages for a certified copy of your Marriage Certificate.

4. CONSENT FORMS

These are only needed if one or both parties are less than 18 years of age.

B. BIRTH CERTIFICATES.

The original of your Birth Certificates must be sighted by the celebrant of the marriage. For people born outside of Australia a valid passport is also acceptable.

C. EVIDENCE OF DEATH

A Death Certificate must be produced before the marriage of a person whose previous union terminated in the death of the other partner.

D. DIVORCE.

The Celebrant must be shown the Decree stating the date of termination of the previous marriage.

E. ALCOHOL

It is an offence under the Act for any marriage to be solemnised if either party to the union appear to be under the influence of or affected by alcohol or drugs.

F. WITNESSES

You will need two witnesses over the age of 18 years.

MEETING YOUR CELEBRANT

The Priest who celebrates the Marriage [celebrant] will arrange to meet with you at least three times prior to the wedding.

MEETING 1:

You will need to bring the legal documentation described on the previous page to this meeting.

We complete or review the Notice of Intended Marriage.

We will also discuss your Marriage preparation course. "PREPARE" is aimed at assisting you to identify and work with both your relationship strengths and growth areas. This confidential course commences with an inventory of questions which may be completed on-line and continues with discussion of your analysed responses. The cost is currently \$48.00 per couple, which is payable online when you commence the online survey.

We will briefly discuss your options for music, readings and other details of your wedding service.

MEETING 2:

We discuss your "PREPARE" report, most couples find this a deeply satisfying activity as they explore their relationship together.

We will finalise the details of your marriage service; your choices of readings, prayers and music. Please make sure you have looked over the Service before this meeting.

MEETING 3:

This meeting is usually the rehearsal [a day or two before your wedding day].

FURTHER MEETINGS:

You may choose to continue the PREPARE discussions in which case we will arrange additional meetings before the rehearsal

SOME PRACTICAL INFORMATION

CONFETTI

Please do not use confetti in the church building or concreted areas.

DECORATIONS

Decorations for the pew ends may be permitted if appropriate but please do not use sticky tape or pins. Before making decorations, please discuss with the celebrant. Please note that pagan symbols such as Zodiac signs and horse shoes are not suitable.

FLOWERS

There are usually flowers in the church; however you are welcome to arrange for floral displays for your wedding day. Please discuss this with the celebrant. Whilst it is not customary for there to be flowers in the church during Lent, arrangements may be made again by discussing with your celebrant

FEEES

The fee for your wedding is a fixed amount incorporating components for: *Church Maintenance, marriage preparation, mileage up to 50 kms* the use of the church, administration and the celebrant's time. This fee is currently \$600. If you have received approval to hold your wedding outside of the church building a fee of \$300 [plus mileage at 31c per km over 50 km] applies.

Payment may be made in full or in instalments any time prior to your wedding, however it must be finalised by the rehearsal date. Cheques may be made payable to "the Anglican parish of Toronto" or you may pay directly into the parish account **BSB: 705-077 A/C No: 00041031**. Please be sure to include details to identify the payment i.e. your name & wedding date.

MUSIC

You are welcome to have the church organist play for your wedding, or to use other musicians or recorded music. Please discuss music choices with the celebrant who may refer you to the organist.

PHOTOGRAPHS

We ask that you engage one official [this does not necessarily mean a paid professional] photographer who be allowed to take any photos, while remaining mindful of not intruding on the service. Spot lights may NOT be used. Please ask your photographer to speak to the celebrant before the service.

SERVICE BOOKLET

Often an order of service is a lovely keepsake for your wedding guests. You will need to prepare a draft for the celebrant to proof-read at least one month before your wedding. See 'The Order of Service' pages for more information.

USHERS

If using service booklets a minimum of two ushers should be at the doors 15 minutes before the service. They are to hand out service books and generally assist guests.

VIDEOS

Any plan to video tape the wedding should be discussed with the celebrant .No strong lights may be used by the Video Operator. Copyright licensing is an important issue. Generally professionals are covered for this, though you should check. Amateur operators should obtain a "Single Event" licence from AMCOS, for a small fee. You can download a licence application from www.apra-amcos.com.au

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Your celebrant will discuss your wedding order of service with you. The Consents and Vows must be those authorised by the Anglican Church. We encourage you to choose Bible reading/s, prayers and music appropriate to your ceremony.

BIBLE READINGS

In the wedding ceremony there is a place for at least one Bible reading. We would like you to take some time and choose a reading, perhaps from the list below. Couples often choose a guest to read the Reading.

Old Testament Genesis 1.26-2.4a; Genesis 2.18-24; Genesis 24.48-51, 58-67; Song of Solomon 2.8-14; Song of Sol 4.1-7; Song of Sol 8.6-7 Psalm 23; Psalm 46; Psalm 67; Psalm 111; Psalm 121; Psalm 127; Psalm 128; Psalm 138,

New Testament

Matthew 5.1-12; Matthew 7.21-29; Matthew 22.35-40; John 2.1-11; John 15.9-12 and/or 12-16; Romans 12.9-18; 1 Corinthians 12.31-13.13; Ephesians 3.14-19; Ephesians 5.21-33; Colossians 3.12-17; 1 John 3.18-24; 1 John 4.7-16

Below are printed the 4 most popular Wedding readings.

Corinthians 13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child: when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part: then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

John 15:9-12

Jesus said, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy maybe complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

Romans 12:9-18

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly, do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Colossians 3:12 —17

As God's chosen ones, holy & beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, & patience. Bear with one another &, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach & admonish one another in all wisdom; & with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, & spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are having the bible reading or prayers printed out you must include the following copyright information:

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HYMNS

Hymns may be sung at your wedding. Your selection will be governed by copyright laws. Speak to the celebrant about this.

PRAYERS

During your wedding ceremony, we will offer prayers for your marriage. These are a selection of prayers offered in the Prayer Book, from which you may choose, typically 2 or 3. As with Readings, it is nice to invite one of your guests to lead the Prayers.

For the joy of loving

God our creator, we thank you for your gift of sexual love by which husband and wife may delight in each other, and share with you the joy of creating new life. By your grace may NAMES remain lovers, rejoicing in your goodness all their days. Amen.

For grace to live well

Faithful God, giver of all good things, give NAMES wisdom and devotion in the ordering of their life together. May they dwell together in love & peace all the days of their life seeking one another's welfare, bearing one another's burdens, and sharing one another's joys; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For an existing family

God of all grace and goodness, we thank you for this new family, and for everything parents and children have to share; by your Spirit of peace draw them together and help them to be true friends to one another. Let your love surround them and your care protect them, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For discipleship

Eternal God, without your grace nothing is strong, nothing is sure. Strengthen NAMES with patience, kindness, gentleness, and all other gifts of the Holy Spirit, so that they may fulfil the vows they have made. Keep them faithful to each other and to you. Fill them with such love and joy that they may build a home of peace and welcome. Make their life together a sign of Christ's love in this broken world, that unity may overcome estrangement, forgiveness heal guilt, and joy conquer despair; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For children

Lord of life, you shape us in your image, and by your gracious gift the human family is increased. To NAMES grant the blessing of children. Fill them with wisdom and love as they care for their family, so that they and their children may know and love you, through you Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For faithfulness:

God of all grace, friend and companion, look in favour on NAMES, and all who are made one in marriage. In your love deepen their love, strengthen their wills to keep the promises they have made, that they may continue in life-long faithfulness to each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For families of the couple:

Gracious Lord, bless the children and families of NAMES that they may grow in love and friendship. Grant that as they have witnessed these vows today, they may find their lives enriched and strengthened and their loyalties confirmed. Amen.

For the healing of a memory

Loving God, you are merciful and forgiving. Grant that those who are suffering the hurts of the past may experience your generous love. Heal their memories, comfort them, and send them all from here renewed and hopeful. Amen.

For the joy of companionship

All praise and blessing to you, God of love, creator of the universe maker of man and woman in your likeness, source of blessing for married life. All praise to you, for you have created courtship and marriage, joy and gladness, feasting and laughter, pleasure and delight. May your blessing come in full upon NAMES. May they know your presence in their joys and in their sorrows. May they reach old age in the company of friends and come at last to your eternal kingdom. Amen.

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**KEEP
CALM
WE'RE
GETTING
MARRIED**

Check List

Our wedding is on _____

at _____

Celebrant _____

- Confirmed date and time ___/___/___ - ___:___a/pm
- Paid \$___ ___/___/___ -- \$___ ___/___/___ -- \$___ ___/___/___
- Completed ALL legal documentation
- Completed wedding preparation course
- Arranged Music (including with the organist if applicable)
- Compiled Service booklet – draft approved by celebrant - printing organised
- Organised rehearsal ___/___/___
- Paid in full ___/___/___

CHURCH INFORMATION

The Church of Christ the King, Toronto

Address: Cnr Cary Street and Brighton Ave, Toronto NSW

Capacity: Approx. 250 people

Wheelchair access: this is a wheelchair accessible building [including restrooms]

Parking: is available adjacent to the Church and on Brighton Avenue

Other Information: audio/visual and data capabilities.

For Further Information:

The Reverend Julie Turnbull (Parish Priest)

(02) 4959 1106

rev.julie@bigpond.com

The Parish Office (02) 4959 8108

adminsupport@torontoanglicans.org.au

www.torontoanglicans.org.au

