

Are you getting married? Read about marriage at St John's ...

Preparing for the Big Day - and beyond ...

There is much more involved in wedding preparations than just booking the Church and arranging for a priest to be your celebrant.

If you wish to have a wedding at St John's, you will need to undertake some marriage preparation. Christian marriage is about promising life long faithfulness to each other. Yet we all know of so many failures of marriage. A strong marriage requires a willingness to put effort into our relationship.

We strongly encourage all who come to marriage in our parish to undertake the Prepare/Enrich Programme. The goals of this programme are to explore the strengths and growth areas of your relationship, to strengthen your communications skills and to provide knowledge about dealing with conflicts which will from time to time arise.

This course involves completing a inventory that is designed for your situation. This is not a test or a quiz, but a practical and much tested means of helping you come to deeper understanding of yourself and your partner. After completing the inventory you return for normally two feedback sessions where we work through the workbook you will receive called "Building a Strong Marriage".

The cost of this excellent course is paid out of the \$50.00 deposit made at time of booking church for wedding..

Those who do not wish to undertake this course will still need to plan on visiting the priest on three occasions after the initial contact, and before the rehearsal, in order to work through some of the issues involved in marriage.

Making a Booking

The first step in making a booking for a marriage in our Parish is for to come to make an appointment to visit the Rector, when the procedures involved in a Christian Marriage will be discussed.

A form called Christian Marriage is filled in, and a deposit of \$50.00 made. This \$50 covers the cost of marriage preparation and is non-refundable.

A firm booking is then made.

Faith and Spirituality

Personal faith lies at the heart of a Church wedding - and undergirds a healthy marriage.

If you choose to marry in one of the churches in our parish, we hope you:

identify with the Christian faith community and have a religious faith that has meaning for you personally.

have been baptised (and possibly confirmed), or will be making arrangements with the priest for this to happen at some suitable time before or after their wedding service.

participate in worship at other times before and after your wedding day

seek God's blessing on your life together, and determine to live in a way that expresses Christian values of care and concern for others

Exploring Christian faith

Your marriage is a time of new beginnings, and a time to think about and plan for the kind of life you want to live. A lot of people these days are not Baptised and Confirmed, and many indeed have no appreciation of the Christian way of living. Yet the Christian faith is a way of living your life with joy and strength, and a shared faith something that gives courage and help through all the ups and downs of our lives. Alpha programs, run in our parish and in many other parishes, provide an enjoyable introduction to the Christian faith, and you would be most welcome to be part of this 10 week course.

If you want to discuss more about these issues, as you approach your marriage, or at any time, do not hesitate to contact your priest or church.



Choosing Readers

A choice of readers for the texts you choose, as well as for the prayers at the end of the service is a good way to involve family and friends in your wedding ceremony. It is a good idea to suggest to any thus involved that they may care to come to the rehearsal and have an opportunity to practise before the wedding day.

The Prayers after the marriage

This is another part of the service where there is an opportunity to personalise your wedding service. There are a good number of prayers available for you to think about or other ideas could be discussed with the celebrant.

Printing the Order of Service.

If you wish to print out your Order of Service, you must discuss this with the priest and get the copy of the service along with copyright information. If you do not wish to do your own service, a simple double sided sheet with your names and information will be produced by the parish.

Here are prayers from which you choose one or two for your wedding:

THE WEDDING PRAYERS

For Faithfulness

God of all grace,
Friend and companion,
Look in favour on N and N
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 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 N and N remain lovers,
Rejoicing in your goodness all their days. Amen

For Children

Lord of life,
You shape us in your image,
And by your gracious gift
The human family is increased.
To N and N 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 your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

For and 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.
For grace to live well

Faithful God,

Giver of all good things,
Give N and N wisdom and devotion
In the ordering of their life together,
May they dwell together in love and 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 discipleship

Eternal God,
Without your grace nothing is strong, nothing is sure,
Strengthen N and N 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 the families of the couple

Gracious Lord,
Bless the parents and families of N and N
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 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 N and N
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.
Here is one favourite reading:

Here is one favourite reading ... there are others listed below.

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the 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. 2 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. 3 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.

4 Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. 7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 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. 9 For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; 10 but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. 11 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. 12 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. 13 And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Here ends the reading

Some other readings:

ST. MATTHEW 5.1-12 True happiness

ST. MATTHEW 7.21-29 Hearing and doing

ST. MATTHEW 22.35-40 Love the Lord your God

ST. JOHN 2.1-11 Wedding at Cana

ST. JOHN 15.9-12 and/or 12-16 Abiding in Christ's love

ROMANS 12.9-18 True love

1 CORINTHIANS 12.31-13.13 Real love

EPHESIANS 3.14-19 Grounded in love

EPHESIANS 5.21-33 Partners in marriage

COLOSSIANS 3.12-17 Everything in Jesus' name

1 LETTER OF JOHN 3.18-24 Love, courage

1ST LETTER OF JOHN 4.7-16 The love of God



Here is the usual form of service – we are required to use one of the services from the Australian Prayer books.

The Second Form of Marriage – A Prayer Book for Australia, (Broughton Books, 1999)

The people stand as the wedding party takes its place.

Priest: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

Opening sentence from the Scriptures:
God is love, and those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.

We have come together in the presence of God
to witness the marriage of &
and to ask God's blessing on them
as we share their joy.
Marriage is a gift of God our creator.
It is a symbol of God's unending love for his people,
and of the union between Christ and his Church.
Christ loved his bride the Church,
and gave himself for her.
As he has called & to marriage,
so he draws their differing gifts and hopes
into a unity of love and service.
Scripture teaches that marriage is a lifelong partnership
uniting a woman and a man in heart, mind and body.
In the joy of their union, husband and wife
enrich and respond to each other,
growing in tenderness and understanding.
Through marriage a new family is formed,
where children may be born
and grow in secure and loving care.
Marriage is therefore to be honoured by all.
No one should enter it lightly or selfishly,
but responsibly and joyfully,
with mutual respect and the promise to be faithful.
So let us pray with & as they prepare to exchange their solemn vows:

Blessed are you, loving God,
your Spirit binds us together
Crown our lives with your goodness;
sustain us all our days with your love.
Bless &with wisdom and pleasure.
Be their friend and companion in joy,
their comfort in need and in sorrow.
And when this life is ended
welcome them into your presence,
there with all your people
to praise your holy name
Blessed be God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

The Reading from the Bible—1 Corinthians 13

The Address

THE WEDDING

The priest says

..., will you give yourself to ..., to be her husband,
to live with her according to God's word?

Will you love her, comfort her,
honour and protect her,
and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her
so long as you both shall live?
I will

..., will you give yourself to ..., to be his wife,
to live with him according to God's word?

Will you love him, comfort him,
honour and protect him,
and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him
so long as you both shall live?
I will

The priest says to the congregation:

Families and friends,
you are witnesses to these vows.
Will you do everything in your power
to uphold ... &in their marriage?
We will.

The man, facing the woman and taking her hand in his, says

I, ... , in the presence of God,
take you, ..., to be my wife:
to have and to hold
from this day forward,
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish,
so long as we both shall live.
All this I vow and promise.

They loose their hands.

The woman, still facing the man and taking his hand in hers, says,

I, ..., in the presence of God,
take you, ..., to be my husband:
to have and to hold
from this day forward,
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish,
so long as we both shall live.
All this I vow and promise.

When the rings are to be given, the priest may receive them and may say
God of steadfast love,

by your blessing,
let these rings be for ... & ...
a symbol of their love and faithfulness
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The giver places the ring on the ring-finger of the other's hand and says
I give you this ring
as a symbol of our marriage.
With all that I am and all that I have
I honour you, in the Name of God. Amen.

After the rings have been exchanged the man and woman may say together
I receive this ring
as a symbol of your love and faithfulness
to the end of our days.
May God enable us to grow in love together.

The priest joins their hands and declares to the people:
Before God and in the presence of us all,
... & ... have joined hands
and made their solemn vows,
promising life-long faithfulness to each other.
In the Name of God,
I declare them to be husband and wife.
What God has joined together,
let no one separate.

The couple say
God of tenderness and strength,
you have brought our paths together
and led us to this day;
go with us now as we travel through good times,
through trouble, and through change.
Bless our home, our partings and our meetings.
Make us worthy of one another's best,
and tender with one another's dreams. Amen.

The priest adds a blessing for the couple
God the Father lovingly enfold you,
God the Son grace your home and table,
God the Holy Spirit crown you with joy and peace.
The Lord bless you and keep you in eternal life. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

The prayers conclude with the Lord's Prayer
Accept our prayers, loving God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,
Our Father in heaven.
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

The Blessing

The Register is signed