



Anglican Parish of South Perth

Church of St. Mary the Virgin



Getting Married at St. Mary's

We are delighted that you have enquired about marriage at
St. Mary's Church,
when, in the midst of the loveliness of this special day for you both,
you will be surrounded with prayer, and sent forth
into your new life together with God's blessing.

Our prayer is that you will experience in your marriage,
a deepening love and understanding of one another,
joy and fulfillment together, and
a happy and secure home to share together,
and with your family.

Please read this small leaflet together

It explains how we conduct weddings at St. Mary's, and the requirements of both the civil authorities as well as the Church.

Having read this leaflet, if you would like to book your wedding ceremony at St. Mary's, please phone the parish office on 9367 1243 to check availability and make an appointment for an initial interview.

Marriage and Christian Marriage

There are many different ideas about what marriage is meant to be. Some see it as just a romantic partnership between a man and a woman, which they can do away with when they like. Others see it as just a legal and social arrangement - society's way of ordering our sexual and family relationships.

Christians on the other hand, see marriage as a lifelong commitment between a man and a woman - made publicly before God, involving promises and responsibilities.

Christians believe that God created men and women to love each other and to love Him, and that God gave us the gift of marriage. So, God is the one who has the right to say what the promises and responsibilities of marriage should be.

To be married before God and in God's church involves accepting the Biblical teaching that:

- Marriage is **for life**.
- Marriage is **exclusive** and comes before all other human relationships.
- Marriage involves a **total** commitment.
- Marriage is **the setting** for sexual intimacy, union and fulfillment between a man and a woman.
- Marriage is **the environment** in which God desires children to be nurtured.

The marriage services used at St. Mary's express this Christian view of marriage. In the promises you make to one another before God and your guests, you will be saying that **you agree** to commit yourself to this Christian understanding of marriage.

Some Legal Requirements

The Commonwealth Marriage Act requires that prior to your wedding:

1. Neither of you are married.
2. Both of you will have attained the age of 18 years
3. In the case of divorce, that the Decree has become absolute.
4. (On the day) that you are not under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Some Church Requirements

As well as the above, the Anglican Church expects:

1. That one or both of you is baptised. If you are not currently baptised and wish to commit yourself to Christ and desire membership of the Church, please speak to the priest as this can be arranged as part of marriage preparation.
2. That you are accepting of the Church understanding, that marriage in the Church is something holy and pleasing to God and that what we are doing has religious significance.
3. That if possible, you should establish ties with the worshipping community of the church, to attend St. Mary's regularly for Sunday worship, and to maintain those ties after the wedding.
4. That if either of you are divorced, the priest will need the permission of the Archbishop before any commitment to celebrate your marriage in the church can be made.
5. That all couples will undergo a course of marriage preparation.

Our Concern...

At St. Mary's, we want to help you prepare, as well as we can, for your life together as a married couple. We think this preparation is very important because:

- We want the **very best** for you.
- We are **responsible before God** for celebrating and witnessing your marriage.
- We are **deeply concerned** about the frequency of marriage breakdowns occurring today, and the pain and destructiveness that is suffered by the partners and families in such breakdowns. Good preparation can help to equip couples with the skills they need to make a happy, satisfying and lasting marriage.

So what is Marriage Education?

Marriage education aims at equipping couples with as many skills as possible, in order that their marriage may be happy and fulfilling.

It is expected that you will undertake some form of marriage education. This will normally be done through the parish. We have a trained and experienced counsellor who will facilitate this with you.

Free Marriage education is our parish gift to all couples marrying at St Mary's.

The Next Step

If you wish to confirm your booking, please phone The Parish Office on 9367 1243 or Fr. Nick on 0447 224451, and make an appointment for an initial interview. Please feel free to phone on any other matter if you have any questions.

The Initial Interview

You should arrange an initial interview within 4 weeks of booking St Mary's for your wedding. At this time, the booking will be confirmed. You are asked to pay a deposit of \$100 to confirm your booking.

At the initial interview, the details of your wedding plans will be taken. This will give you an opportunity to ask any questions you may have, and to take a note of matters that you need to make decisions about. We will discuss such matters as music for the wedding; flowers in the Church; the choices about the order of service, including readings and prayers; photo and video people; as well as anything else you may want to talk through.

The forms that have to be completed for the government will also be dealt with at this time.

In order for a marriage to be legal in Australia, your celebrant is required to sight certain documents before your marriage can take place. There are several key pieces of information that must be provided which are (i) the date and place of birth of both parties and (ii) proof of identity of both parties. The documents which are commonly produced by both parties to meet these requirements are an original birth certificate or an original birth extract and a driver's licence or a passport.

If one or both parties do not have an original birth certificate or original birth extract, they have the option of producing an Australian or foreign passport instead. If you are an Australian citizen and you do not have a passport, you will be required to obtain an original copy of your birth certificate from Births Deaths & Marriages in the capital city of the State or Territory where you were born.



The Anglican Parish of South Perth Church of St. Mary the Virgin

9 Ridge Street
SOUTH PERTH WA

Phone: 9367 1243

Email: office@stmarysouthperth.com
Website: www.stmarysouthperth.com

