

# THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

## A LIFE-LONG COMMITMENT IN LOVE

*and the two shall become one body .....*

St Benedict's parish offers you our prayers and best wishes for the Sacrament of Marriage. We hope that our church will provide a sacred setting for the beginning of your married life. May you experience the joy and strength of companionship in your life journey together.

This brochure is intended to answer practical questions concerning the arrangement of your wedding at St Benedict's. Please read it carefully so that there is no confusion about your use of the parish church of St Benedict's.

St Benedict's Church  
Corner Broadway and Ambercrombie Street  
Broadway NSW 2007

# Marriages

The following information is intended to answer practical questions concerning the arrangement of your wedding. Please read it carefully so that there is no confusion about your use of the St Benedict's Church.

## **Marriage celebrant**

Couples who are not parishioners need to arrange for their own Catholic priest or deacon. A definite booking will not be taken until these details are provided. We are able to assist with advice about possible celebrants.

## **Bookings**

The sacrament is normally celebrated on Saturdays, between 10.00–11.00 am. or 2.00–3.00 pm. Enquiries about bookings can be made by phoning the Parish Secretary on 9390 5287. Bookings can be confirmed only on the completion of the application form obtained from the Parish Secretary.

## **Preparation**

Before you begin planning your wedding, you will need to take part in a marriage preparation program which is available at:

The Catholic Adult Education Centre  
3 Keating Street  
Lidcombe, NSW 2141  
Phone: 9643 3660  
Email: [info@caec.com.au](mailto:info@caec.com.au)  
Web: [www.caec.com.au](http://www.caec.com.au)

## **What Faith must I be?**

At least one party must be a Catholic and in the case of mixed marriages the non-Catholic party needs to accept that the Catholic party has the responsibility of doing all that (s)he can to pass on the faith tradition.

## **Should Catholics who want to get married in the Church be going to Mass every Sunday?**

Catholics preparing for Marriage do well to participate in the life of the Church because by doing so they exemplify the purpose of getting married. They do this because marriage is not only a commitment to God and one another but a public witness to their faith.

## **What dates are suitable for weddings at St Benedict's Church?**

Weddings take place on Saturdays, or, if I am available, on other days of the week, but please note that due to the number of Masses that take place every Sunday it is not possible to have weddings on Sundays.

## **What is the difference between a Nuptial Mass and a Wedding Ceremony?**

A Nuptial Mass is where a Wedding Ceremony takes place within the celebration of the Mass which means that it includes the Liturgy of the Eucharist. It is about one hour in duration. A Wedding Ceremony is about forty minutes in duration as it does not take place within the celebration of Mass. It still includes the wedding ritual of the Church during which you express your consent (that is, exchange your wedding vows). Both services also include readings from Scripture and a homily.

**How do we plan our wedding?**

We hope your wedding will be a prayerful, faith-filled expression of your commitment to each other. To that end, assistance will be provided to help you and your guests to participate in a full active and conscious way that is appropriate. Resources will also be given to you to enable you to tailor your wedding according to your preferences as there are a number of Scripture Readings, prayers and other elements that you can choose from.

**What is the church's seating capacity?**

The church seats 150-200 people. Space is available for additional seating, however, it will be up to you to hire additional chairs if you require them.

**What is the car park's capacity?**

Parking space is very limited at St Benedict's Church. Only cars for the bridal party and for the disabled may park in the church grounds. Guests can park in the surrounding streets or the nearby Broadway Shopping Centre which allows for free parking for those who park their car for less than three hours.

## *Terms & Conditions*

### **Use of St Benedict's Church**

St Benedict's Church is a sacred place of worship. For this reason it is not merely a venue for hire. We request you to respect this. Furthermore, the Church's Liturgical Calendar often requires changes to the dressing of the Sanctuary and other places (such as the veiling statues for Lent), and that this dressing cannot be changed for the sake of convenience. We would be happy to advise people of any likely clashes to what they might expect the Church to look like when planning a date.

### **Booking fee**

If you are not a parishioner who is contributing to the St Benedict's Planned Giving Program the church hire/booking fee is \$700. This booking fee helps St Benedict's Parish maintain the church given that it is the oldest consecrated church in Australia. Your booking cannot be confirmed until:

- (i) your booking is paid in full;
- (ii) the priest you have asked to be your celebrant has confirmed his availability to the Parish Secretary; and
- (iii) your wedding papers are complete.

If you pay a \$250 deposit you will be notified if another couple wants to book a wedding during the same date and time you have chosen and give you first preference in finalising your booking. To finalise your booking all fees must be paid no later than one month prior to your wedding ceremony date. The church hire/booking fee is payable by cash, or cheque made out to *St Benedict's Catholic Parish*. For further details please contact the Parish Secretary, on (02) 9390-5287. You are welcome to provide a donation to the Celebrant to thank him for his services. If you do so this will need to be separate to the booking fee as unlike the donation, the fee is payable to the maintenance of the church. Please note that the fees paid to the Organist, Bell Ringers and any other musicians are not included in the church booking. Please forward your payment with the booking form within two weeks from the time of the booking to:

*The Parish Secretary, St Benedict's Church, PO Box 261, Broadway 2007.*

If you are writing a cheque, it will need to be addressed to St Benedict's Catholic Parish. This donation does not include the usual offering for the marriage celebrant, which is a personal gift from the couple to the celebrant. It covers travelling expenses, marriage preparation, planning for the ceremony and legal documentation. A gift of \$150–200 would be appropriate.

### **No refund of deposit**

No refund will be given for your deposit if you chose to cancel your wedding booking. However, if you cancel your wedding after you have paid for it in full you will receive a complete refund, except for your deposit.

### **Church bells**

If you want the bells in the bell tower to be rung you will need to make a private arrangement between yourselves and St Benedict's Bell Tower Captain through the Parish Secretary. If you would like to make arrangements for anyone other than St Benedict's Bell Ringers to ring the bells please do not do so without contacting him first as I have asked him to be responsible for the bells.

### **PA System**

You must not change any of the church's PA settings. Much effort has been made in adjusting the PA system so that the sound in the church is at its optimum setting.

### **Recorded music**

It is only permitted to play music which is appropriate to the Sacrament of Marriage in a Christian setting at St Benedict's Church. Failing to do so would be just as inappropriate as playing church hymns during your wedding reception. Preference should be given to the church organ and/or St Benedict's Parish's Choir or its cantors.

### **Church Organ and Choir and/or cantors**

The Parish Secretary can put you in touch with St Benedict's Organist. He will be able to assist you with any inquiries you have about the use of the church's pipe organ. If you would like to make arrangements for anyone other than the Parish Organist to play the organ you must first contact him as I have asked him to be accountable for the parish organ. For information about St Benedict's Choir and/or cantor(s) and the choice of music in the church in general you will need to contact the Director of Music. This you can also do through the Parish Secretary. He will assist you to make arrangements for the Choir and/or cantor(s) to sing during your wedding if you would like such vocal accompaniment. In doing so you will be asked to give St Benedict's Choir and/or cantor(s) the first right of refusal as their service in music is part of this Parish's identity and heritage.

### **Non-Scriptural Readings in the wedding ceremony**

Since your wedding is a Rite of the Catholic Church you cannot include any readings which are extraneous to the Bible in the Liturgy of the Word. If you want to include non-Scriptural readings in other parts of your wedding ceremony this will need to be approved by the celebrant of your wedding.

### **Flowers**

There is no restriction on flower quantity or colour at St Benedict's Church. However (i) no flowers can be placed in the church during the Season of Lent (Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes with the Easter Vigil); (ii) flower arrangements are not permitted to be placed directly on the altar. It is permitted to place arrangements directly in front of the altar on the floor. Otherwise floral arrangements are permitted to be placed anywhere else in the church; and (iii) it is regretted that pew decorations are not allowed unless *tied* to pews (that is, no adhesive substances, pins, tacks, etc).

### **Confetti**

These are not permitted in the church or church grounds as it causes great inconvenience to others, especially in wet weather and it time consuming to clean.

### **Photography**

Photographers and Video Recorders are permitted providing they are unobtrusive. As a courtesy, all photographers must see the celebrant before the wedding starts.

### **Security**

Please ensure that all vehicles are locked and valuables are kept out of view. St Benedict's Parish will not be responsible for any loss or damage due to criminal activity.

### **All those who are involved in your wedding**

It is your responsibility to make all the individuals who are involved in planning, assisting and celebrating your wedding aware of these terms and conditions.