



WEDDING INFORMATION

Marriage Requirements – Documents

- 1 A recent copy of your birth certificate and passport. It should be less than six months old and can be obtained by contacting Births Deaths and Marriage office or an Extract of entry and an overseas passport if you are not an Australian Citizen.
- 2 Recent copy of your Baptismal certificate to be provided by the Catholic party. It should be less than six months old and can be obtained by contacting the Parish Office of the church where you were baptised. Members of other denominations are encouraged to provide a certificate of baptism too.
- 3 If the Catholic party is not a resident in the parish of St Michael, Ashburton, you will need to obtain a Testimony of Freedom to Marry from your local parish. This involves contacting the Parish in which you currently live, explaining your intention to marry in a different parish.
- 4 If either party is remarrying, you will need to inform the Parish Office when enquiring about the booking. The record of Church annulment and civil divorce papers will be required.

Wedding Ceremony

Marriages at St Michael's are celebrated only according to the rites of the Catholic Church. This means that at least one party must be baptised Catholic and both parties are free to marry.

The celebration of marriage takes place outside of mass times. St Michael's is available for weddings on most Saturdays during the year at either 12 noon or 2.00 pm as indicated in the Booking Form. This is to be discussed with the priest conducting the ceremony. Your officiating priest will discuss with you the order of service and the various reading and prayers couples can select.

The Parish Priest would be happy to officiate your wedding. However, you may prefer to use your own celebrant. Please include his name and contact details on the booking form. Any Catholic priest or Deacon registered with the civil authorities as a Celebrant of Marriage may officiate weddings.

Marriage Preparation Course

Pre-marriage courses are recommended. Your celebrant will guide you in your choice. These courses are an invitation to plan for your marriage, not just your wedding day.

Marriage Witness

It is a legal requirement that there are two witnesses who are at least 18 years of age. They must be present at the marriage celebration and sign the wedding register.

Wedding Booklets (Order of Service)

Your celebrant will assist you in preparing your ceremony and will be able to provide you with books for guidance. You will need to provide a draft of your wedding booklet to your celebrant for approval prior to printing. Our copyright licence must be quoted together with acknowledgement for all hymns used for the booklet. The licence number can be obtained from the Parish Priest before printing upon the confirmation of the wedding booklet.

Bookings

Bookings are accepted up to 24 months ahead. Please download and complete the Wedding Booking Form with your deposit of \$300.00. An email confirming the booking will be sent to you. The remaining balance of \$200.00 must be paid 3 months prior to the ceremony date.

Cost

Bond	\$100.00 in the event of damages or extraordinary cleaning of the church. Please note that we do not allow any confetti, rice, petals, etc to be thrown either in Church or the church grounds. No alcohol is to be consumed on the premises. If these rules are disregarded, your bond will be forfeited.
Wedding Offering	\$500.00 which includes the \$300.00 deposit. This offering is used for the upkeep of the Church.
Celebrant's Fee	\$400.00 for the services of the Parish Priest. If you are bringing your own priest, it needs to be discussed with the priest directly.

Cancellation of Bookings

Please contact the Parish Office in writing if you wish to cancel your booking. This is a courtesy for other couples who wish to use the church. Any fees will be refunded less \$100.00 administration fee.

Wedding Rehearsal

Rehearsals are recommended to be held the week prior to your wedding day. Please discuss the rehearsal with your celebrant then contact the Parish Office to organise a rehearsal date and time.

Music

Couples are encouraged, in consultation with the celebrant to select sacred music that reflects and enhances the sacrament of marriage and the sanctity of the church. St Michael's is able to refer couples to a singer and musicians upon request.

Flowers & Ribbons

The couple is responsible for the floral decoration of the church. The Wedding Offering **does not** include flowers for the wedding. Ribbons or bows are not permitted on the seating pews.

Confetti

Confetti, rose petals, bubbles or rice are not permitted inside the church, the entrance church steps or any other part of the church property. No alcohol is to be consumed on the premises. If these rules are disregarded, your Bond will be forfeited.

Photography and video

Professional photographers and video cameras are permitted as long as the equipment and movement it does not distract the priest, bridal couple or guests. Your photographer and/or video operator will need to consult with the celebrant prior to the ceremony as to what is expected of them.