



St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church

# Sacrament of Marriage

We welcome your enquiry to marry in the St Joan of Arc Church. Our Parish Priest, Fr Martin Dixon will be pleased to meet with you to discuss your plans.

## **MARRIAGE PREPARATION**

Both the Australian Government and the Church stress the importance of good marriage preparation. We recommend that couples participate in either the Partnerships or FOCCUS programs.

### **Partnerships**

Partnerships is a marriage education program conducted in a group setting with up to 14 couples. Topics covered include: communication; conflict management; finance; parenting & commitment. Most couples enjoy the opportunity to meet with others preparing for marriage.

### **FOCCUS**

This is a program for couples who would like to reflect on their relationship in a more private setting. Couples meet with a Marriage Educator and complete a series of questions designed to help the couple obtain a greater sense of each other's needs, expectations and responsibilities. The process is totally confidential to those involved. The aim is to facilitate open couple communication. Booking details for marriage preparation may be obtained from Fr Martin. We suggest that any marriage preparation be commenced at least six months before the wedding.

## **A CATHOLIC WEDDING**

Traditionally the wedding can be celebrated in one of two forms:-

- 1 Nuptial Mass or
- 2 The Wedding Service

The decision regarding which form should be discussed with Fr Martin.

The Catholic Church asks that a Catholic person see to the handing on of their faith to their children. When a Catholic is marrying a person of another Christian tradition or a non-Christian, the Catholic is required to sign a promise to do all in their power to ensure the Catholic baptism and upbringing of their children.

## **Documentation required**

1. full birth certificate
2. driver licence
3. passport
4. copy of baptism certificate.
5. Where there has been a previous marriage of any form by either party, evidence of the death of the previous spouse or evidence of both civil dissolution and church annulment of the previous marriage.

## **Costs**

There is a composite fee of \$850 for weddings at St. Joan of Arc Church. This covers administration, liturgical preparation, flowers and an offering for the priest as celebrant.

Please note that the cost of marriage preparation is not included in this fee. The date and time for your wedding will be confirmed on receipt of the Wedding Booking Form and the church fee.

## **Music**

A parish organist is available upon request. Several singers and musicians are also available.

## **Flowers**

We will provide flowers in the church as part of the composite fee. No other flowers are permitted. Bows are provided for pews at the front of the church.

## **Confetti/Rice/Petals**

These are not permitted in the church or the forecourt.

## **Wedding Program**

We can provide you with a CD or email a template which includes a sample program and a marriage preparation manual.

## **Photographs/Videos**

Only those officially engaged are welcome to photograph during the service. At the conclusion the priest may invite others to take photographs.

## **Cancellation**

If you decide to cancel your booking at St. Joan of Arc Church, notification in writing is required. The church fee will then be refunded.

*We look forward to meeting with you to discuss your wedding plans.  
Please telephone the parish office on 9593 1703 or email [Brighton@cam.org.au](mailto:Brighton@cam.org.au)*

