

MARRIAGE REQUIREMENTS

For

ST PAUL'S CHURCH

562 SYDNEY ROAD, COBURG 3058



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PREPARATION:

Thank you for your enquiry about getting married at St Pauls, Coburg. At your request a tentative booking has been made in the parish diary. In making a decision to get married in a catholic church, you are indicating a willingness to invest some time and effort into the preparation and ceremony for your wedding. The months leading up to your wedding should be full of joy and be deeply positive in your relationship with your partner.

Marriage is a sacrament, a serious life-long commitment. It is not merely a matter of arranging the reception, filling in the necessary papers and getting to the Church on time. All couples – male and female - wishing to be married at St Paul's are expected to attend a marriage preparation course; brochures are provided by the office staff or Father Raymond.

PREVIOUS MARRIAGE:

If either partner has been through any form of marriage before, no matter where or when, it is important to make this fact known before making a firm booking.

PAPERS REQUIRED:

BIRTH CERTIFICATE: (Or extract of entry of birth)

Required by law for all persons. In the case of persons born in Victoria this is obtained from the Registrar of Births. Forms available at Post Offices.

BAPTISM CERTIFICATE:

Required in the case of baptised persons. Write to the Church where the baptism took place. Include a stamped addressed envelope. Give full name, date of birth, parents name (including mother's maiden name – and date of baptism, if known).

LETTER OF FREEDOM TO MARRY:

Required by the bride if she is a Catholic and not living in St Pauls Parish. Required by the groom, if he is a Catholic and marrying a non-Catholic, and not living in St Pauls Parish. This is obtained from the bride/groom's Parish Priest.

Required by the groom if he is a Catholic and does not live in St Pauls Parish. This is obtained from the groom's Parish Priest.

Dates for meeting Fr Ray are Wednesday evenings or Saturday afternoons. Date and time are negotiable.

DATE AND TIME OF WEDDINGS:

The date and time of the wedding will be arranged at the time of booking and is confirmed on receipt of the \$100 deposit.

Weddings at St Pauls are:

Saturdays: 11.30am, 1pm & 2.30pm. Sundays: 2pm onwards.

THE CEREMONY:

At the time of booking the Church for the wedding, the couple should indicate whether they intend to have a Nuptial Mass or not, (Nuptial Mass can be celebrated in the case of a mixed marriage). Details of the ceremony can be worked out with the Celebrant prior to the wedding. N.B. Please be on time for the ceremony. There may be other celebrations in the Church after your wedding.

MIXED MARRIAGE: (i.e. when one partner is not a Catholic)

The Catholic party will be asked to sign and answer to the question: "Do you sincerely promise to do all in your power to share your faith with your children by having them baptised and brought up in the Catholic Church?" The marriage is the same in all cases.

WEDDING REHEARSALS:

Bride and groom arrange for a rehearsal. This usually takes place on the Monday or Friday of the previous week to the wedding, at 8pm. Rehearsals need to be booked well in advance with our office staff on 9354 1564 and confirmed with Father Raymond Bugeja. Father Raymond will attend your rehearsal to ensure arrangements are to your satisfaction.

WEDDING BOOKLET:

This is prepared by bride and groom in consultation with the priest. He must approve copy before printing. The booklet must be in accord with "The Order of Celebrating Matrimony" as approved for use in Australia.

PHOTOGRAPHS & VIDEOS:

Photographs and videos are permitted in the Church, provided the photographer consults with the celebrant before the ceremony.

BELLS: Bells are played at the entrance of the bride to the church.

MUSIC:

Couples are responsible for making their own arrangements with musicians to whom the fee should be paid at the time of booking. Music should be appropriate for a Catholic wedding in a Catholic church. Our parish pipe organ is eminently suitable for weddings.

CONFETTI, RICE & PETALS:

Are forbidden in the Church and inside the Church grounds. Couples are requested to advise their guests to refrain from throwing them inside the Church or on the steps and pathways in front of the Church.

COST OF CEREMONY:

There are costs involved with the use of a large building like St Paul's and staff are needed to prepare the Church for a wedding. Lighting, cleaning, maintenance, insurances, provision of sound equipment, staff wages, support of the priest are some of the costs involved.

The cost is \$800.

\$100 (Non-refundable) of this amount is the deposit: and is to be paid at the time of booking the Church.

Final payment to be paid one month prior to the wedding. This can be done through the Parish Office or handed to the Celebrant at the processing of your papers.

If you bring your own priest, the cost is \$500. In this case, it will be the responsibility of your priest to meet with you and fill the required forms.

CANCELLATIONS

If a couple have to cancel their wedding, please notify the Parish Office – 9354 1564, as soon as possible. Other couples may be anxious to make use of the time you have booked. You will appreciate that cancellations need to be made in writing. Any money you have paid will be refunded.

The above information is supplied to help you in your preparations. Please feel free to consult with the priest at any time. We are here to assist you.

If there is any other information you need, please call Father Raymond Bugeja on 9354 1564. Office hours are 10.30am – 4pm Monday to Friday.

WELCOME TO ST PAULS. WE HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR SPECIAL DAY!