

Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage at St Therese's Parish

Our parish priest has pastoral responsibility for those who live within the parish and will do all he can to accommodate parishioners who would like to marry at St Therese's.

Couples who are not parishioners and would like to hold their wedding at our church are required to ask their own parish priest or a priest friend to officiate. Your priest/deacon celebrant will need to assist you with marriage preparation, church and government forms, relevant dispensations, order of service/ceremony, etc.

Wedding arrangements are made with the couple and not with friends or family of the bride or groom.

The Church strongly advises that all couples undertake an approved marriage preparation course prior to their wedding commitment.

Donation to the Celebrant

It is customary, after the wedding, for the couple to offer a donation to the celebrant for his services. (As a guide, it is useful to note that a civil celebrant may charge between \$500-\$1,000).

Audio Equipment

The church sound system has a built in CD player and iPod/mp3 facility. CDs prepared by couples should be checked to ensure they work on our system. With visiting celebrants, it would be wise to check their attitudes towards recorded music.

Photographers

Photographers are welcome, but they should not disrupt the flow of ceremony.

Flowers

St Therese's has a NO LILIES (Liliums) policy as these flowers cause allergy and staining problems.

People marrying at St. Therese's are free to arrange their own flowers or employ a professional florist as long as notice is given at least two weeks prior to the wedding to allow for the cancellation of the church's own flower arrangements.

We ask that flowers for Sunday weddings be in place in the Church prior to the 6pm mass on Saturday evening. (NB: Floral arrangements that are to be left in the church cannot contain Lilies).

It is not permitted to remove flowers from the Sanctuary once they are in place.

Rehearsals

A rehearsal date and time will be booked when you confirm your wedding booking. Rehearsals usually take place on an evening within the week prior to the wedding.

Paperwork

The Government requires notice one month and one day prior to the date of the wedding. This notice should be given to the celebrant. Usually an extract of birth is also required. Christian partners are also required to provide their Baptismal certificate.

NB: A booking will not be entered into the Church diary until an application form, deposit payment and confirmation from the celebrant are received by the parish office.