



My God and My All

Parish Communities of
St. Francis of Assisi, Paddington
St. Joseph, Edgecliff
In the care of the Franciscan Friars since 1879

Celebrating Your Wedding
at
St Francis of Assisi Paddington
and
St Joseph Edgecliff

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*St. Francis of Assisi Church 463 Oxford Street,
Paddington, NSW*
St. Joseph Church: 12 Albert St, Edgecliff, NSW

Congratulations on your Engagement!

This leaflet helps you plan your wedding and make the religious ceremony what it ought to be, a sacred starting point in your married life.

The Celebrant

It is customary to marry in your own parish church so as to develop contact with your local priest and parish community. Couples who are not parishioners are still welcome to use our churches, but they must arrange their own celebrant. Please note that we cannot confirm your booking until the **Application For A Wedding: Details Of Visiting Clergy** form has been completed and returned to the Parish Office. If you are a parishioner at St Francis of Assisi or St Joseph then one of the parish friars is available to be the celebrant.

Bookings

Weddings are held on Saturdays between 10.00am and 3.00pm (latest starting time). Weddings outside of these hours may only be booked with special permission from the Parish Office. St Francis and St Joseph parishes share the same priests so they cannot always be available. As a rule we do not have Sunday weddings as these clash with the baptismal and Sunday mass timetable.

Please ensure that your **Application for a Wedding** form is filled out neatly and clearly with all the requested information listed.

Donations for Booking, Celebrant and use of church

A sacrament is a free unmerited gift from God and, as such, we do not impose a charge for the sacrament itself. However, to assist with the ongoing maintenance of the church structure we do request a donation of \$1000 is made to the parish. If your wedding is cancelled this donation can be fully refunded.

Please return the booking form and donation as soon as possible. Your date cannot be confirmed until the form and donation is received. We do not request a donation

from active parishioners, as they already contribute through their ongoing mass attendance.

At the time of your wedding, it is customary to make a donation to the Priest, this donation goes towards supporting the Franciscans Friars that serve our parish community and not the physical upkeep of the church.

Marriage Preparation

All couples wishing to marry at St Francis or St Joseph are required to complete an approved marriage preparation course. Information will be sent to you along with the booking form. If you have your own priest, he may offer you an alternative preparation, which is acceptable. In either case, your wedding preparation will need you to meet with your celebrant on several occasions. Please contact him to arrange dates as soon as possible.

Documentation

Australian law requires couples to show the celebrant a birth certificate. For church purposes, they also need to provide copies of their baptismal certificates **issued within six months** of the wedding date. These are to go to the celebrant, not the Parish Office. Please contact the parish of your baptism to obtain these.

Wedding Service or Nuptial Mass?

It is important to carefully plan your wedding ceremony. The way you choose to celebrate it should reflect where you are on your own faith journey, for example, it may be an anomaly for a couple to request a Nuptial Mass if both partners seldom attend Mass. The Australian Bishops Guidelines state that a marriage between a Catholic and a baptised person who is not a Catholic follows the Rite for Celebrating Marriage outside Mass. A very helpful booklet for planning a wedding service is *When We Marry: A Practical Planning Guide for Couples*, obtainable through Pauline Books and Media (150 Castlereigh St, Sydney).

Music and Song for your Wedding Celebration

A wedding is a religious celebration so it is

appropriate that your choice of music reflects this and acknowledges the presence and worship of God. The distinction between sacred and secular music is not always clear, but these few hints may help.

- Try choosing music based on religious texts, eg, scripture, psalms etc.
- Avoid songs or music associated with films, stage, pop songs, etc.
- Consider playing any secular music at the wedding reception.

The Parish Office can offer details of organists or you may provide your own who should be familiar with your wedding ceremony. The Pipe Organ at St Joseph's requires a suitably qualified musician.

You may wish to enhance your music with a choir or instrumentalists. St Francis' has an active parish choir which is available on request. A range of fine sacred music from Gregorian chant and polyphony to more recent works is available and the Director of Music can assist you in your choices. Fees are negotiable.

At St Joseph's, arrangements can be made with the Parish Organist and cantor.

Both churches also have an audio system available.

Confetti

No confetti, rice or petals may be thrown in the church or church grounds. Bubble-makers are OK.

Parking

Parking is limited in the grounds and surrounding streets of St Francis and St Joseph churches. It would help to arrange for a friend to supervise parking arrangements during the thirty minutes prior to the wedding. There is no parking for mid week weddings at St Francis.

Photography

Professional videos and photographs of your wedding ceremony are permitted, but it is required that you convey the following instructions to photographers well

before the wedding:

- Photographers are asked to introduce themselves to the celebrant for instructions.
- Photographers are not to move around the church during the ceremony, nor are they permitted to walk onto the sanctuary area.
- No additional lighting may be used.

Wedding Rehearsal

If you wish to use the church for a wedding practice, please make your booking as soon as possible. Most couples arrange a rehearsal for a week night a few days before the wedding. A rehearsal may not be necessary as it may be sufficient to "talk through" the ceremony with your celebrant. The celebrant must be present at any wedding rehearsal.

Viewing the Church / Flowers

If you have not been to our church, we ask that you attend at least one Mass before making and confirming a booking.

If you decide to go ahead and if you, your florist, or anyone helping with your wedding needs access to the church, they or you will need to make an appointment for a time and day. Unfortunately, for security reasons, we can no longer leave our churches open, and our staff cannot always be available.

After the Wedding

Please ensure that the church is left in the same condition in which it was found. This means removing all decorations, rubbish, booklets and returning any furniture to its original location. The reason for this is a Mass will often follow your wedding and it the poor old priest that is left to clean any mess that is left behind!

COVID-19

You will appreciate that the health and welfare of all parishioners needs to be considered at this time and there are government regulations with which we must comply. In order to be compliant with our COVID safety

plan the following additional requirements are currently in place:

At St Francis a maximum of eighty (80) people in total, this includes the bridal party, celebrant and photographer.

At St Joseph a maximum of fifty (50) people in total, this includes the bridal party, celebrant and photographer.

While COVID is in play we regret the need to charge a cleaning fee, this fee is \$150 (including GST) to cover the cost of the parish hiring cleaners to clean and sanitise the church after the wedding. If you are unable to afford this fee please discuss it with the Parish Office.

The names and contact details (including at minimum a phone number) of all attending must be recorded and provided to the Parish Office. This is given to the celebrant on the day of the wedding and be included with the marriage papers provided to the Parish Office.

Seating arrangements may not be changed (ie - only ever second pew may be used).

If a nuptial wedding is to be celebrated Holy Communion must be distributed in line with our COVID-19 safety plan.

The **COVID: Wedding Protocols** document must be read and signed by the wedding couple and celebrant. This is a mandatory part of the application - your booking will not be confirmed until we have received the signed document.

Finally, you would appreciate that managing COVID is a day by day proposition, hence this document is subject to change without notice. This will be on the advise of the department of health.

To be returned to the Parish Office

Bookings will not be considered final until the

following is received:

1. Application for a Wedding form.
2. COVID Wedding Protocols form.
3. Visiting Clergy form (When your celebrant is not from the Parish).
4. Requested donation.
5. Cleaning Fee (if applicable).