

Celebrating Your Wedding



St Canice Parish
Elizabeth Bay

Thank you for your enquiry about getting married at St Canice's Church. St Canice Church is unique in layout as it does not feature a central aisle. We therefore encourage you to visit the church before you book so you can give careful consideration as to whether this feature of our church is suitable for your ceremony. We do not allow any re-arrangement of the church layout or furniture.

We ask that you take time to review the information below on how to proceed with your wedding plans. We are happy to assist you with any enquiries, so don't hesitate to call Lynelle Lembryk at the Parish Office on 9358 5229 if you have any further enquiries.

Booking the Church and Celebrant

Arranging the date of your ceremony

Weddings may be held on a Monday through to a Saturday except on special Church Holy Days, provided the date does not conflict with regularly scheduled parish services.

Wedding ceremonies may be scheduled on Saturdays, between 10.30am and 3pm, and on weekdays dependent on the celebrant's availability. We don't hold wedding ceremonies on Sundays due to Mass commitments.

Call the Parish Office to establish if the church is available on your chosen date, and if it is available, we will forward you paperwork to be completed and returned to the Parish Office. When received we will make a tentative booking in the parish diary and await confirmation of further details.

Organising Your Celebrant

Ideally, your marriage and ceremony preparation should take place in your home parish or the parish at which you worship on a regular basis. (Your home parish is the parish where your residential address falls within the geographic boundaries of that parish.)

If you live within the St Canice parish boundaries or have an association with St Canice:

Depending on availability, a St Canice priest can officiate at your ceremony. We ask that you speak with them directly to discuss further. (We also warmly welcome visiting priests.)

If you live outside the St Canice parish boundaries:

Consider approaching the parish priest in your home parish. We do, however, understand this may not always be possible for various reasons. You can still have your ceremony at St Canice if your local parish church isn't an option, but we ask that you arrange for your own priest to assist you with your marriage and ceremony preparation.

If you are unable to find a priest, we will gladly discuss your needs and our availability.

Confirming Your Booking

Having confirmed your celebrant's availability, we ask that you pay the church the church hire fee of \$500. Paying this fee confirms your booking and it should be noted the wedding will not be recorded in the parish diary until the fee is paid. Please be assured the fee is 100% refundable in the event of a cancellation.

Confirming your booking should be done well ahead of the wedding: you have a better chance of securing your preferred date and time if you make your booking early. We need at least six months notice for the wedding to take place and longer if you reside overseas.

Meeting with Your Celebrant

Once your celebrant and church booking are confirmed, the process will be well under way. In the months before your wedding you will meet with your celebrant to complete legal requirements and begin marriage and ceremony preparations.

It is appropriate to make an offering to your celebrant for time spent completing the official documentation and preparing you for your ceremony.

General Information

Flowers, Music and Photos

Flower arrangements: are your responsibility. Flowers are permitted in the sanctuary area of the church and simple bows can be placed on the pews. At the conclusion of the ceremony these should be removed.

Music: You can provide your own musicians or arrange for one of the church organists to play at your wedding. The Parish Office can give you names and contact numbers. Payment should be made directly to the musician(s). Other music arrangements can be discussed with your celebrant.

Photos and Filming: You are welcome to have photos and videos taken during the ceremony. Photographers should be discreet and speak with your celebrant before the ceremony.

Confetti

We regret that confetti, rice or rose petals are not allowed in the street in front of the church, in the church, or the church courtyard, because:

- Council regulations prohibit these items being thrown about in the street
- Anything thrown about in the street has to be cleaned up by someone
- Confetti, rice or rose petals outside will be tramped back into the church

Parking

Unfortunately, parking in the local area is very limited so we can only provide parking on parish grounds for the bridal cars. St Canice is only a 10-minute walk from Kings Cross Station and there are several commercial parking stations close by. (Note: City of Sydney Council parking officers patrol the area regularly.)

Church Requirements

Baptism Certificates

If both parties are baptized, you will both be required to provide a baptism certificate. Catholics must apply for a newly-issued baptism certificate from their parish of baptism. For a marriage to proceed in a Catholic church at least one of the parties must be a baptised (Roman) Catholic. (Maronite and Ukranian rite Catholics are normally married by their own clergy.)

Pre-nuptial inquiry form

This form is completed with the priest who is preparing you for your marriage.

Application for dispensation

A dispensation is required when one of the marriage partners is not a Catholic (and in some other circumstances). Your celebrant will discuss this further if required and will handle all the paperwork.

Marriage preparation program

It is important that you undertake suitable preparation before marriage. Your celebrant may do this or he may recommend that you attend a programs through Catholic Care (the social services agency of the Catholic Church). <https://www.catholiccare.org/family-and-individual-services/counselling-and-relationships/marriage-and-relationship-education/>

Government Requirements

Notice of intended marriage form

Both parties must sign this notice at least one month before the wedding (the notice remains valid for 18 months). Usually your celebrant will help you complete this form, however, in some circumstances another priest may do this. Your celebrant will advise if this is necessary.

Birth certificate or current passport

Both parties require an official certificate (with a registration number) showing their date and place of birth. If you were born in Australia, a birth certificate is required. If you were not born in Australia, you can use your passport.

Declaration of freedom to marry

This must be signed in the presence of your celebrant, usually a few days before the wedding ceremony.

Further Enquiries?

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Lynelle on 9358 5229 or lynelle@stcanice.com.au

We look forward to sharing this special occasion with you.