

## Famous Weddings at St Mark's Church

*We thank Charlotte Adcock for sharing her 2019 Public History Project with us. We also wish to acknowledge Getty Images and Alamy for the use of their photos.*

### Elton John and Renate Blauel's Wedding at St Mark's



Elton John and Renate Blauel at St Mark's  
(Both images) Credit: Patrick Riviere/Staff  
<https://bit.ly/2pxRv63>



St Mark's is one of Sydney's most recognisable churches. Although it has hosted many weddings, arguably none have been more photographed than Elton John and Renate Blauel's Valentine's Day wedding in 1984.

Alicia Watson, a long-serving member of the St Mark's community, snuck inside the church to view the ceremony. She crept in before the mayhem began and hid in the gallery. Alicia estimates that there were 50 guests in attendance for the traditional service, and Molly Meldrum was the only face familiar to her. This was mainly due to his cowboy hat, she explains. St Mark's Rector Reverend Canon James Whild officiated the wedding.

Elton and Renate's wedding attire was classic of the 1980s. Elton wore a white coat and lavender-coloured silk shirt. Australian fashion icon Keri Craig designed Renate's dress. It featured large sleeves and lace - lots of lace. Craig had only four days to produce the dress that would be photographed and published globally.

Fans gathered outside St Mark's during the service. A crowd had formed by the time Elton and Renate exited the church. In the excitement of seeing their favourite singer, fans lent on the church's wrought iron fence and it collapsed. A man also broke his leg during the hive of activity.

Alicia explains that Elton later paid for the fence to be fixed and personally visited the injured fan in hospital. Canon Whild remained in contact with Elton for many years after the wedding.

### ***The Love Boat: 'The Expedition/Julie's Wedding'***



Julie and Captain Stubing at St Mark's

(Both images) Credit: Getty, [ABC Photo Archives](https://bit.ly/35cFEJU) / Contributor

<https://bit.ly/35cFEJU> and <https://bit.ly/2CXGGxm>



*The Love Boat's* Julie and Tony were married at St Mark's in the 1981 episode, 'The Expedition/Julie's Wedding'. The boat was momentarily moored in the harbour city and the episode highlights some of Sydney's iconic landmarks.

The episode showcases St Mark's beauty. Julie and Captain Stubing, who gives her away, are captured walking up the church's front steps and into the venue.

Although Julie and Tony's marriage did not last, St Mark's was publicised to an international audience. *The Love Boat* was one of the most popular programs during the 1970s and 1980s.

## ***Muriel's Wedding: The Fantastic, Fictional and Frivolous***



Muriel and her bridesmaids  
Credit: Alamy, <https://bit.ly/333u8iy>

*Muriel's Wedding* was an unexpected global sensation. The Australian film captured the world's attention and popularised the phrase, "*You're terrible, Muriel*".

St Mark's served as Muriel and David's wedding venue. The church's aisles were adorned with flowers and few can forget the quizzical looks attendees gave Muriel as she walked down the aisle.

Although the scene is short, Alicia Watson explains that it took a long time to film. The street was closed off and the church's lawns were filled with vans and tents.

Fans continue to visit St Mark's today and take photos to remember the church where Muriel had her dream wedding.