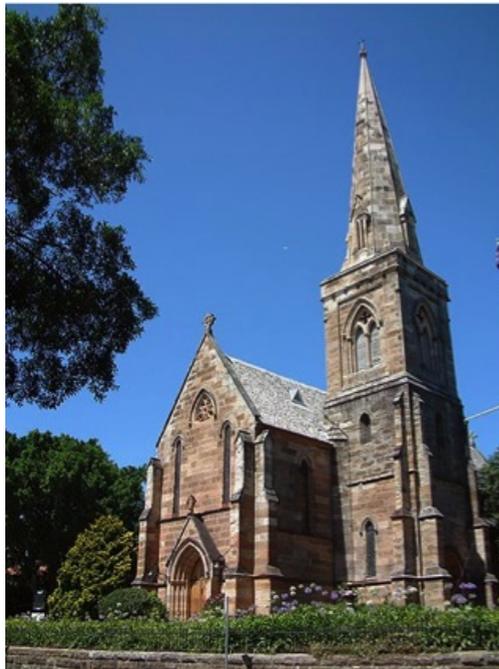




ST MARK'S

ANGLICAN CHURCH DARLING POINT

A guide for those wishing to
be married at St Mark's



Congratulations! We are delighted you have decided to marry and have chosen St Mark's as the Church in which you want your wedding to be celebrated.

When we agree to marry a couple, we are making a commitment to them and to their future. We want to do all we can to ensure your marriage is long-lasting, filled with joy, delight and determination.

This leaflet is a brief introduction to holding a wedding at St Mark's.

Who gets married at St Mark's?

All sorts of people choose St Mark's for their wedding. We do not just marry people who go to the Church. Indeed, most of those married at St Mark's are not regular attendees. We hope that over the period of your preparation that will change. Life that is abundant and free, enriched with peace and hope and joy - as human life is meant to be, is life lived in a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

As we are an Anglican Church you will be married under the Rites of the Anglican Church of Australia. If you're from another denomination your pastor may be able to take some part in the service but they wouldn't be able to actually marry you.

In the Anglican Church there are three important undertakings you give to each other.

- that your marriage will be lifelong
- marked by loyalty to each other. It is an exclusive relationship.
- and love, the same model God has for his people - self-giving and sacrificial love.

The underlying Anglican understanding of marriage is that it is a gift from God. God has our wellbeing at heart and wants us to experience all the joys and blessings of an intimate relationship. So, as well as a changing legal status, the Anglican service invites God to bless the marriage, now and in the years ahead. We ask Him to help us keep our promises, to bring joy, delight and growth in good times and difficult times.

So a wedding in an Anglican Church is a service of praise of God: the focus is on Him and his goodness to us. Different Churches express that differently: St Mark's has its own way of doing that which many would describe as traditional.

What needs to be done?

To confirm your wedding at St Mark's you need to return the completed Confirmation form with a photo of you both and pay a \$100 deposit.

There are certain legal requirements.

- A Notice of Intended Marriage needs to be completed at least one month before the service.
- Our minister will meet with you when you will sign a declaration that there is no legal impediment to the marriage. If either of you has been married before you will also need to supply documentation that the marriage has legally ended and when it ended.
- Our minister will need to see your ID - either a birth certificate of current passport.

You must attend a Marriage Preparation Course. St Mark's holds three courses each year. Each course consists of meetings on 4 consecutive Sunday afternoons beginning at 4pm followed by the evening Church service at 5.30pm. If you live interstate or overseas you will need to attend a course near where you live. Our minister will help you find an appropriate course.

You will also need to make some decisions about the music you would like at the service. You will need to complete and return the Music Request Form indicating if you would like a choir, trumpeter or the bells at the service. We need 2 months notice if you want to book any of these to assure the availability of the people needed.

The organ is the primary instrument used at St Mark's and is included in the cost of all weddings. You may choose to use other music but the organist's fee is included in the package that we offer. The Processional and Recessional music is usually an organ piece.

If you decide to have hymns at the service then it is best to choose well-known hymns with tunes that are familiar to your guests. 2 or 3 hymns are common but you could choose to have no hymns if you think your guests would be uncomfortable singing in Church.

Planning your service is a very important part of the day. Our minister can help you with it. You have been sent a Service outline, which is the running order of the service that works best. You can, of course, design your own layout in consultation with your printer. You must send a draft of the service to our minister before printing.

St Mark's doesn't allow refreshments or alcohol to be served after the service.

Flowers at the Church. You are requested to leave two small vases of flowers on the Holy Table for the Sunday Service.

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