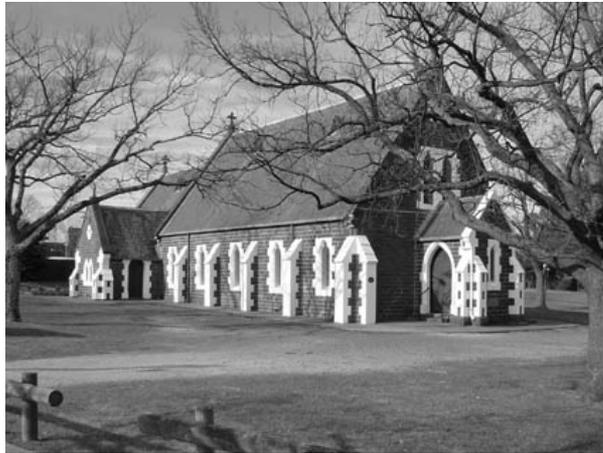


Contact St Mary's
PO Box 2049 Sunbury VIC 3429
p: 03 9744 1347 f: 03 9740 8393
e: admin@stmarysanglican.org.au
w: www.stmarysanglican.org.au

St Mary's Anglican Church



Planning Your Wedding



Welcome to St Mary's Anglican Church, Sunbury

St Mary's Anglican Church is a beautifully maintained 140 year old bluestone church nestled in the heart of Sunbury on the Village Green. Its walls, slate roof and stained glass windows contribute to the picturesque image of an old country town church making it a popular venue for weddings. However, don't let it's looks deceive you....

St Mary's is also a modern church with a growing membership of 160 regular attenders. Behind its romantic walls are people who care about people and who serve and love each other and the community of Sunbury. We are a rich mix of people from many backgrounds, but the friendships are real despite our differences.

Worship services are a key part of our life together as God's people.

Our regular services times are:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Sunday 8:30am | Traditional Anglican Communion service |
| Sunday 10:30am | Contemporary service for all ages, Sunday school program during term (Communion on first and third Sunday of each month) |
| Wednesday 10:00am | Communion service (no music) |

All services are followed by morning tea.

We would love you to join us at any of these times.



Weddings at St Mary's

We are delighted that you are considering allowing us the privilege of celebrating your marriage. We hope your wedding day is a truly memorable and enjoyable day and the start of a lifetime of love and support for each other.

Weddings at St Mary's are Christian ceremonies celebrated within the Anglican tradition. Within this framework we encourage you to plan with us a ceremony that will reflect your own individuality.

When we talk with couples about their wedding, we find that there are a number of common questions that get asked. This booklet answers many of these questions.



Who will celebrate our wedding?

In most circumstances the minister at St Mary's will celebrate your wedding. If for some reason the minister is unavailable, then he will ensure that another authorised Anglican minister will be present to celebrate the wedding.

Can we bring our own minister?

It is possible for another Anglican minister to celebrate a wedding at St Mary's, subject to approval from the minister. A non-Anglican minister is not authorised to celebrate a marriage at St Mary's without the approval of the regional Bishop and the minister.

How soon can we get married?

Unless there are exceptional circumstances (which require special approval from the Department of Justice) no wedding service can take place within one calendar month of the "Notice of Intended marriage" being completed. However, more notice is usually required!

Can we have our wedding any time we chose?

Weddings will not be held on the following days - Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Eve or New Year's Day. There may also be other dates that are unavailable so please check with the office before booking your wedding. Weddings can be held at anytime of the day, within reason, depending on availability of the church and minister.

Can we view the church sometime?

You are welcome and encouraged to attend any of our regular worship services (8:30am and 10:30am on Sundays, 10:00am on Wednesday).

How much does it cost to have a wedding at St Mary's?

Please discuss wedding fees with the minister or the office. Wedding fees are usually paid at the rehearsal.

There is a \$50 non-refundable deposit, which must be paid to secure your booking for your wedding date.

Do we need to be baptised?

The wedding service at St Mary's is a Christian service and refers quite explicitly to God, to Jesus, his love for us and how that love is shown in marriage. We encourage you to commit yourself to follow Jesus, and to express that commitment through baptism. If you have not been baptised and would like to be, then please discuss this with the minister.



What if I'm divorced?

We know that people's lives do not always go the way they plan, and divorce is a fact of life for many people. St Mary's will consider marrying someone who is divorced but according to church guidelines approval needs to be received from the Bishop. The minister will approach the Bishop in this regard.

Do we need to do Marriage Preparation?

The Anglican Church is committed to helping couples develop strong marriages. All couples requesting marriage at St Mary's are encouraged to undertake marriage preparation. Please discuss this with the minister.



Marriage preparation is not counselling – it is a chance for couples to discuss issues about their upcoming marriage. Many also find that marriage preparation affirms their commitment to each other. You will also need to meet with the minister several times to think through the teaching about Christian marriage that is expressed in the marriage service.

What order of service can we use?

At St Mary's we believe that the most significant aspect of a wedding is the couple making their lifelong commitment to each other through Christian marriage vows. As a result the wedding service is clearly Christian in its format. There are Bible readings and prayers and couples are expected to make their vows before God and before the congregation. The minister is unable, by law to perform ceremonies other than those authorised by the Anglican Church. A template of the service can be given (or emailed) to you.

Is there a need to print an order of Service?

Some people may wish to print out the whole service for their friends and family as a memento of the occasion. There are no problems with doing this, but it may not be necessary to print out the whole service. It may be sufficient to just print out an outline of the service for most attendees and a full order of service for the special people involved. This will more than adequately serve as a memento of the occasion.

Can we have any sort of music we like at our wedding?

Music during the service must be appropriate to the fact that the marriage is a Christian service. It is not necessary to sing hymns at your wedding, particularly if you feel your guests would be unlikely to know them. However, if you feel that hymns would help, and that your friends and families who form the congregation will sing, then the minister will be happy to advise you of some suitable hymns. St Mary's will provide an organist for your wedding if requested.

If you wish to use some other instrumentalist or play CDs, please feel free to do so. You will need, however, to discuss this with the minister.

Musicians/singers would also be advised to visit the church beforehand to check the acoustics, PA system, lay out etc.

All music used during the service needs to be approved by the minister.

Are there any limits on taking photos and videos?

Photographs or videos may be taken inside the church provided that photographers or video operators are discrete and the minister is aware of what they intend to do. Out of courtesy we request that they do not go behind the minister during the service. Photographers are welcome to use flashes (discretely), but we do ask that no floodlights be used. Mock-ups can be made within the church after the service.

Photographers or video operators should contact the minister before the service.



Do you arrange flowers for the church?

Flowers are organized by you through a local florist. We can recommend both of the local Sunbury florists.

Can St Mary's arrange a cuppa between the service and the reception?

We can offer you drinks and finger food in the parish hall between the wedding and the reception. A fee is charged. Please contact the office for more information.



Can we put ribbons on the ends of the pews?

Yes! These will be provided by St Mary's, unless you wish to make use of your own. Please note that under no circumstances are ribbons to be affixed to the church seats with glue/pins, etc. We suggest you make a bow that goes over the seat ends, using elastic cord.

Is confetti allowed in the church?

No! Please stress to your family and friends that confetti, rice, etc is to be thrown **outside** the church.

Can we shift things in the church?

Even though you may chose to use the church building for your wedding, please remember that it remains a place of worship (i.e. by having your wedding at St Mary's does not mean that you are hiring the church building for the day). Items in the church building - tables, chairs, banners, kneelers, noticeboards etc. are not to be moved. The minister will show you how and where the service will be conducted.

Do I need to arrange ushers for the wedding service?

An usher is required to hand out marriage service sheets (if you have them) to the congregation before the service, and to help direct people to their seats. The usher should be on duty 15 minutes before the service.

Do we need any legal documents before we can get married?

To be legally married, you are required to complete or obtain a number of documents both before and during the service. These are:

- *Notice of Intended Marriage (Blue Form)*
This form (obtainable from the minister) needs to be filled out no more than two(2) years and no less than 31 days before the intended marriage. This is normally done at the first formal interview with the minister.

- *Birth Certificate*
The Marriage Act requires each person to produce an original birth certificate or certified extract of birth. This has to be sighted by the minister when filling out the *Notice of Intended Marriage*.
- *Consent of both parents to the marriage of a minor*
The Marriage Act requires a person under the age of 18 years to have the consent of BOTH PARENTS. If one has died, then a copy of the person's death certificate must be produced.
- *Previous marriage*
If your previous marriage ended in the death of your partner then the minister will need to see an original or certified copy of the death certificate.
If your marriage ended in divorce, then the original of the Decree Nisi - Dissolution of the Marriage must be sighted by the minister at the first interview. For divorced persons, permission will also have to be obtained from the regional Bishop before the marriage can take place. The minister will seek this approval.
- *Marriage certificate*
The marriage certificate is signed after the wedding service has been celebrated (St Mary's provides the certificate) and presented to you at that time. Two persons over the age of 18 years must witness the signature of the bride and groom.

Please note: Marriage certificates provided to couples on the wedding day may not be accepted by some agencies as evidence of change of name. For example, the Passports Office will no longer accept the certificate presented to the couple by the minister; they now require a marriage certificate issued by the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. In such cases, couples will need to apply to the Registry for the official certificate.



St Mary's Wedding Application Form

The Groom

Name

Address

.....

Contact
phone(home) phone(work) mobile

..... Date of Birth
email

Marital Status never validly married / divorced / widowed (circle one)

Baptised? Yes / No (circle one)

Links with Sunbury?

The Bride

Name

Address

.....

Contact
phone(home) phone(work) mobile

..... Date of Birth
email

Marital Status never validly married / divorced / widowed (circle one)

Baptised? Yes / No (circle one)

Links with Sunbury?

The Wedding

Wedding date

Wedding time

(These need to be discussed with the vicar prior to completion of this form)

Would you mind sharing with us some of the reasons why you want to get married at St Mary's?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Please cut out and return this form to:

St Mary's Anglican Church
PO Box 2049
Sunbury VIC 3429

Please include your deposit of \$50 (cheque made payable to St Mary's Anglican Church).

Checklist

We have...

- Made initial contact with the office or minister to tentatively book a time/day/date for the wedding.
- Attended a Sunday service to meet the minister and get a feel for the church and discussed the wedding date and other issues.
- Filled out the application form in this booklet and sent it to St Mary's with a non-refundable deposit of \$50 (cheque made payable to "St Mary's Anglican Church Sunbury ") within 14 days of making our verbal booking.
- Contacted the minister to arrange a time for a first interview sometime around 6-9 months (and at least 3 months) before the wedding.
- Brought our original birth certificates or certified birth extracts and Decree Nisi (if divorced) to our first interview with the minister so that the "Notice of Intended Marriage" form could be completed.
- Arranged additional interviews with the minister as needed.
- Discussed with the minister our order of service, choice of music, and any other such details.
- Undertaken marriage preparation.
- Printed and sent out invitations.
- Printed out Order of Service sheets (if needed).
- Taken part in the wedding rehearsal (usually in the week before the wedding) and paid all outstanding fees (should be paid in full at the rehearsal - if not beforehand).
- Just Got Married!

We pray for God's blessing on your marriage!



Our Lord Jesus Christ said of marriage that 'From the beginning of creation God made them male and female. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one." So they are no longer two but one. What therefore God has joined together, let no one put asunder.'

Marriage is the symbol of God's unending love for his people, and of the union between Christ and his Church. So Saint Paul teaches that the husband must love his wife as Christ loved the Church, and that the wife must give due honour to her husband.

Marriage should be honoured by all, and is not to be entered into lightly or carelessly, but with reverent and serious respect for those purposes for which it was instituted by God. Marriage is a life-long union in which a man and a woman are called so to give themselves in body, mind, and spirit, and so to respond, that from their union will grow a deepening knowledge and love of each other.

In the joys and sorrows of life, in prosperity and adversity, they share their companionship, faithfulness, and strength.

In marriage a new family is established in accordance with God's purpose, so that children may be born and nurtured in secure and loving care, for their well-being and instruction, and for the good order of society, to the glory of God.

© 1995, The Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation. From the text of A Prayer Book for Australia, published under the imprint of Broughton Books. Reproduced with permission.

