

Your Cathedral Wedding

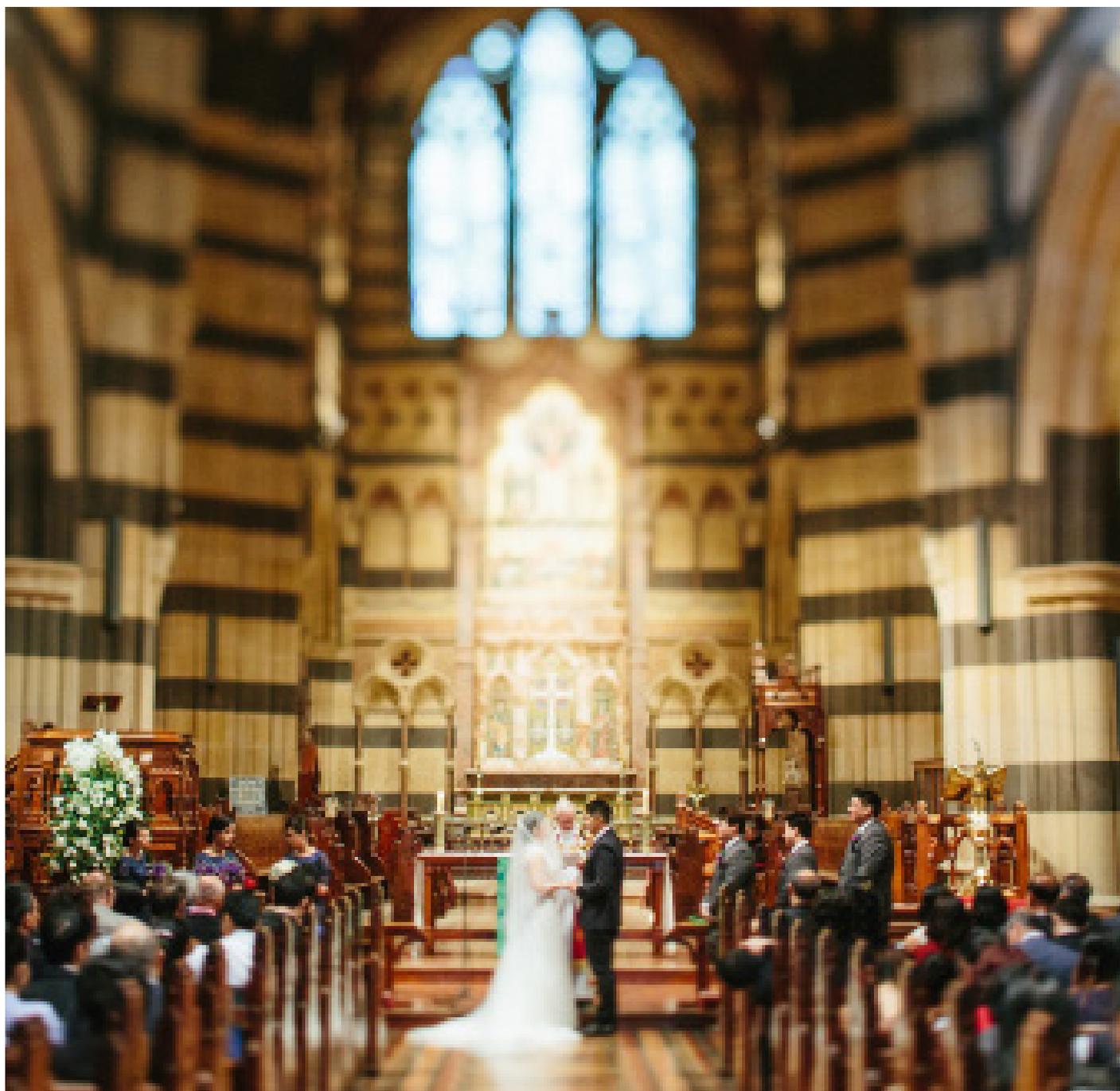
at St Paul's Anglican Cathedral
Melbourne

WEDDING INFORMATION BOOKLET (2020-22)



St Paul's Cathedral

Together transforming our City and Diocese



Your Wedding
is an important time in your life.

At St Paul's we are committed to helping you make your celebration special. The information in this booklet is given to answer initial questions and to help you decide whether a St Paul's wedding is right for you.

Dates

Weddings at St Paul's are generally held on Saturday afternoons at 2.00pm or 4.00pm. Fridays and mid week dates are also sometimes possible. It is advisable to book early.

Please note that no weddings take place here during Holy Week (Palm Sunday to Easter Day).

The Ceremony

St Paul's Cathedral welcomes all people irrespective of gender, race, religion, social standing or sexual orientation. However we are bound by the Constitution and Laws of the Anglican Church of Australia. At the moment, neither the Constitution, nor the Laws of the Church allow for the marriage of people of the same gender, even though the Laws of Australia have recently changed.

The Anglican Church offers Christian marriage ceremonies between a man and a women using an authorised order of service. Church membership is not required, however at least one of the parties to the marriage must have been baptised into a Christian Denomination. Marriages in the Cathedral are conducted by a member of clergy on staff or, with approval, another Anglican priest.

Booking Process

Forms must be lodged with Cathedral staff . Bookings are firm only after all the following are complete:

1. A site meeting with the Events Officer to discuss the ceremony and process
2. The application and booking forms have been completed and approved
3. The deposit is paid

You will then received a 'Confirmation of Wedding Booking' letter in due course.

Couples should understand that in requesting to be married in the Cathedral, they are not 'booking a venue' but rather seeking a Christian wedding in the Anglican tradition. Our concern for you is two-fold: the success of your wedding day; and the success of your married life together. All couples married at the Cathedral are required to complete a marriage education course. Your celebrant will be happy to recommend suitable providers to you.

Second Marriages

Remarriage of divorced persons is possible in the Anglican Church. Normally this requires one of the Cathedral clergy meeting with the wedding couple, and, having been satisfied of their commitment to Christian marriage, writing to the Bishop requesting formal approval. Therefore, if either party to the marriage has been married and is divorced, you need to inform the celebrant immediately so permission can be sought.

Legal Documents, Consent & Witnesses

Couples will need to complete the 'Notification of Intended Marriage' and other application forms in consultation with the Celebrant. By law, the document must be finalised at least one month and one day before the wedding. We recommend that contact be made at least six months ahead.

Each partner must be at least 18 years of age at the date of marriage. For Australian citizens, a full birth certificate which includes the full names of parents, must be brought to the first interview. For Australian permanent residents and people from overseas, a current overseas passport must be provided.

It is important that both original documents and a copy are produced. There must also be two people (both at least 18 years old) available on the day to sign as witnesses to the ceremony, customarily the best man and bridesmaid.

Order of Service

The celebrant will assist with the preparation of the order of service and help personalise the service for you. It is important that the celebrant sees the order of service before you print it, usually at least a month in advance. Copyright permissions must be obtained by the couple for all material used in the service.

Flowers

Beautiful flowers and floral arrangements are provided by the Cathedral Flower Guild, one large arrangement is covered under 'Wedding Fees'. Additional arrangements can be provided for a nominal fee.

Pew & Other Decorations

Small simple posies of flowers and/or bows can be used to decorate the pews for your wedding. They must be able to be set up in the hour prior to your ceremony and removed immediately afterwards. You should liaise with the Events Officer in the lead up to your wedding to discuss these arrangements.

Candles

Only candles regularly in place in the sanctuary may be used. A 'Candle Lighting Ceremony' may be included in your Service; in this instance you need to provide your own candles which will need to be brought to the rehearsal. The vergers will arrange the lectern, a signing table and kneeling cushions for the ceremony.

Photographs

Photographers are welcome. Please have them arrive early and be introduced to the celebrant. They will be briefed on how to get the best results while still respecting the worshipful nature of the service and minimising any intrusion. Members of the congregation may only take photos during the signing of the register.

Music

Music is able to communicate many emotions without words or pictures, and when well chosen, it is able to enhance the emotional experience of any occasion. In consultation with the Celebrant, you will decide in what way music will have a role in your wedding ceremony.

A wedding at St Paul's will be accompanied by the Cathedral's pipe organ, which will play before the arrival of the bridal party, during the bridal procession, for the signing of the register, and during the recession. Our organ is one of the finest in the world, its volume and resonance are perfectly suited to the Cathedral's acoustic, and its tonal colours are varied and brilliant. An organ is nothing without a fine player, and our three staff organists are professional church musicians, and accomplished liturgical and recital organists.

The Choir of St Paul's Cathedral is able to sing at your wedding (fees apply). The Choir is well-known as one of Melbourne's most accomplished choirs. Consisting of people of all ages, the choristers are trained to understand the music they sing and are able to communicate its depth and meaning. The Choir can sing a variety of repertoire at a high standard appropriate for weddings, from Handel to John Rutter and beyond.

Use of recorded music is permitted with permission from the Celebrant or Director of Music, however it may be an infringement of copyright to broadcast professionally recorded music in any public arena without a licence which includes all Christian wedding services. Recorded music with a sung text must be God-related, regardless of whether it's during the service or before or after. Instrumental versions of secular songs are often available which exclude the sung texts. Sometimes these songs are often more suited to the reception than the service.

More information on selecting music for your wedding will be provided to you by the celebrant.



Marriage Preparation

Marriage preparation is an important part of getting ready for marriage, designed to help a couple grow and strengthen their relationship. A marriage preparation course is one of the best investments that a couple can make and is compulsory as part of weddings at the Cathedral. Your Celebrant will refer you to a course that will be helpful to you. The cost as of 2021 is \$365 which is paid to the provider on top of the wedding fee.

Viewing of the Cathedral

You are welcome to come in at a time that suits you. Services are held most days; we encourage you to attend a service to experience worship here. As part of the booking process you should meet with the Events Officer in the Cathedral to walk through the Cathedral and discuss your wedding ceremony.

Wedding Rehearsals

Wedding rehearsals usually take place in the week leading up to the wedding date and last about 1 hour. The celebrant will coordinate with you to arrange a date and time for the wedding rehearsal. At the rehearsal the celebrant will go through the order of service with the participants and make sure everyone is confident with their roles. A vergers will attend the wedding rehearsal to open the Cathedral and to consult with the celebrant and the bridal party concerning details.

Bell Ringing

Bell Ringing is not covered in the basic wedding fee. The Cathedral bells can be rung, either before, after, or before and after the ceremony, for a fee. (see pg. 10).

Parking

Bridal cars should draw up in the Cathedral carpark to allow the Bridal Party to get out. The Cathedral makes available 3 carparking spaces in the carpark, other guests should make use of other carparking spaces near the Cathedral.

Confetti

Please request guests not to throw confetti or rice either inside the Cathedral or outside in the Cathedral forecourt. Rose petals and bubbles are welcome.

Checklist

- Booked tentative date and time with the Cathedral Office
- Attended a site meeting with the Events Officer
- Completed the Wedding Booking Form
- Paid deposit and received confirmation letter
- Met with a member of the Cathedral Clergy
- Arranged and attended marriage preparation course
- Paid fee, received receipt, rehearsal confirmed
- Completed service arrangements, music and flowers
- Order of Service complete and with Cathedral for checking (at least one month prior to the service)
- The ceremony!

FAQs

How many people can we invite?

The Cathedral can seat up to 900 people. Most weddings average around 150 guests however all sizes up to 900 can be accommodated.

There is no minimum number of guests required. (COVID-19 Restrictions may apply)

Can we write our own vows?

All vows must conform to the guidelines specified by the government - that is that the couple are entering into a lifelong commitment. The prescribed vows in the Anglican service are used in our services, however you are welcome to make some personal additions to these vows with the approval of your celebrant.

Can other clergy take part in the service?

One of the Cathedral staff must be the Wedding Celebrant but other clergy are welcome to take part in other aspects of the service such as reading, praying or preaching. We also encourage family members and friends to participate in the service by delivering readings, leading the prayers or acting as ushers.

The building itself, while important, is secondary. Hence, couples are encouraged to recognise that the Cathedral is an old and significant 'living' structure, and that restoration and maintenance may be necessary at very short notice (because of planned improvements; storm damage; vandalism and so on). As such, access (visual and physical) may on occasion be restricted by such works. The Cathedral staff will do everything possible to minimise inconvenience, but cannot guarantee that such works will not be in evidence on the day of the wedding.



Wedding Fees

STANDARD FEE		2020	2021	2022
Includes -	Celebrant			
	Organist			
	Verger			
	Flowers (one arrangement)			
	Rehearsal			
	Administrative costs			
	Total	\$3,500	\$3,700	\$3,900
OPTIONAL <i>(by negotiation and availability)</i>		2020	2021	2021
MUSIC	Choir of 10 Children with Director	\$1,410	<i>Prices on application</i>	
<i>(Organist included in standard fee)</i>	Choir of 10 Adults with Director	\$2,010		
	Choir of 4 Adults with Director	\$810		
	Solo soprano	\$325		
BELLS	Before service	\$510	\$520	\$530
	After Service	\$510	\$520	\$530
	Before and after service	\$800	\$820	\$840
FLOWERS	Second Urn	\$520	\$500	\$510
DEPOSIT				
<i>*A non-refundable fee under normal circumstances to be paid to confirm your booking.</i>		\$500	\$500	\$500

The balance is paid 28 days PRIOR to the ceremony date.

* Prices are subject to change

** Cost of the Marriage Preparation course is not included in the standard fee.



Wherever you go in the years ahead, the Cathedral will always be there for you with friendship and prayer.

St Paul's Cathedral can offer so much more than simply a venue for your wedding ceremony.

