

Planning  
your wedding  
*at Christ Church*  
South Yarra





**CHRIST CHURCH**  
SOUTH YARRA

CNR PUNT AND TOORAK ROADS  
CCSY.ORG.AU

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*Monday - Friday*  
*10am-3pm*

*Monday & Thursday*  
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*Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday*  
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*Flowers by*

**VICTORIAWHITELAW.COM.AU**

# Congratulations!

A wedding is one of life's great moments – a time of solemn commitment, good wishes, feasting and joy. Weddings at Christ Church seek to capture this sense of solemnity and celebration.

There are many things to be done now that you have decided to be married. As a first thing, contact the Parish Office to check the availability of the date you have chosen.

The second step is to meet with the Vicar, usually 6 to 12 months before the wedding, to plan the ceremony and confirm your arrangements.

One of the exciting aspects of preparing for a wedding is planning to make the service your own. Christ Church has a wealth of resources and experience to help you realise your dreams for the day.

## First Things

As you begin planning, please contact the Parish Office to check whether the church is available on the date of your wedding.

The Parish Office will also arrange for you to meet the Vicar, or one of the other clergy in the parish, to confirm your arrangements. It is good to first meet 6 to 12 months before the wedding, to begin planning the ceremony.

Once a date has been confirmed, a non-refundable deposit of \$700 is payable to secure your booking.

## The Order of Service

Weddings at Christ Church follow the liturgy of the Anglican Church of Australia, which allows for both modern and traditional language services. Christ Church can assist with the production of service booklets, at a reasonable cost. At least one reading of scripture is always included in the service. Readings from other sources may be included, in consultation with the Celebrant. It is common for family or friends to read the passages selected. A selection of possible readings is included below. Please speak to the clergy of the parish if you wish to have Holy Communion at your wedding service.

## Music

The music you choose for your wedding is one of the most important and personalised elements of the service on that day. There are many options for you to choose from:

- Organ only (included in standard service rate)
- Choir of 4-8 adults with organ plus director (\$600 - \$1500)
- Soloist with organ (\$300 - \$500)
- Other musicians and ensembles (at price)

You can choose different music for different parts of your ceremony:

- Processional - as the bridal party enter the church
- Psalm (optional)
- During the Signing of the Register
- Blessing (optional)
- Recessional as the newlyweds and their wedding party exit the church.

Hymns may also be sung, although we recommend that you only have hymns if a good number of your guests are regular church goers who will know the tune and sing out. Otherwise it may be that the Celebrant is the only one heard singing! A list of possible hymns is available on our website [www.ccsy.org.au](http://www.ccsy.org.au)

The Choir of Christ Church South Yarra is well-known as one of Melbourne's most accomplished Parish Choirs, consisting of people of all ages. The Director of Music, Michael Fulcher, can suggest a range of joyful music appropriate to the day, and the choir can help lead any hymns.

While there is some flexibility in music choice, a list of links on our website indicate music that can definitely be performed on your wedding day. Music from various royal weddings is also included, so the bride can feel like a princess walking down the aisle!

The use of recorded music is permitted with permission from the Celebrant, in limited circumstances, however it may be an infringement of copyright to broadcast professionally recorded music in any public arena without a licence. An organist fee is included in the standard change, and it is always recommended that a musician is present at the ceremony.

## Can I marry *at* Christ Church if I am divorced?

Christ Church welcomes everyone and happily remarries those who have been divorced.

## Same-Sex Couples

Same sex couples will receive a warm welcome and affirmation at Christ Church. Our clergy will offer support and guidance to all who wish to live in a loving, faithful, and committed relationship, whatever their sex or gender. Regrettably, at present, we are not permitted by Australian law to marry people of the same sex.

## Civil Partnerships

Couples entering a Civil Partnership are welcome to attend any service at Christ Church, with friends and family, to hear the scriptures, pray, and, where appropriate, receive Communion.

## Marriage Blessings *and Re-affirmation of Vows*

Christ Church offers a number of options for couples wishing to celebrate or renew their commitment to one another, including Services of Prayer and Dedication after a Civil Marriage. Please contact the Parish Office for further information.

## Marriage Preparation

Couples will usually meet with the clergy on at least three occasions before their wedding. First, to discuss initial arrangements, to complete the required paperwork, and to begin planning the ceremony. Second, to finalise the details of the ceremony. And finally, a few days before your marriage, to rehearse the ceremony itself. Please note that musicians will not be present at the rehearsal, except by agreement, at cost.

All couples are encouraged to undertake a marriage preparation course prior to their wedding. Relationship Matters offers both group and individual sessions for couples preparing to marry. Further information is available from their website at website [www.relationshipmatters.com.au](http://www.relationshipmatters.com.au) Participation in a marriage preparation course is not mandatory.

## Church Requirements

Marriage in the Anglican Church requires that at least one partner be baptised. Christ Church is happy to advise individuals and couples on preparation for baptism, where this is desired. We would also encourage you to attend Sunday worship as part of your preparation for the sacrament of marriage. No weddings are celebrated during Holy Week or on Easter Day.

## Can someone outside *the* Parish conduct *the* Wedding?

The Parish Clergy normally officiate at weddings at Christ Church. Clergy from other churches or of other traditions are welcome to assist, although the Celebrant must be an Anglican Priest.

## Witnesses

The signatures of the bride and groom on the certificates must be witnessed by two people over the age of 18. These are often the best man and chief bridesmaid or parents of the couple.

## Verger

The parish Verger assists with preparing the church for weddings and ringing the bell at the conclusion of the ceremony.

## Flowers *and* Ribbons

Christ Church has a beautiful display of flowers each week, wonderfully arranged by members of the Flower Guild, except in Lent and Advent. Additional or alternative flowers can be arranged, at cost. This should be discussed during one of the wedding interviews.

Ribbons can be provided for the end of the pew ends, or you may like to provide your own. Ribbons must not be attached to pews with glue or pins or in other ways that may cause damage.

## Confetti *and* Rice

Confetti is not permitted in the church building or on the front steps. Rose petals are fine to use outside the church. Rice can be hazardous!

## Legal Requirements

All weddings have to comply with the regulations in the *Commonwealth Marriage Act*, which requires a *Notice of Intention to Marry* form to be completed more than one month prior to the ceremony. The Celebrant for your wedding will assist you in the preparation of the relevant documentation. The following steps need to be completed.

1. The *Notice of Intention to Marry* form needs to be completed no more than 18 months prior to the intended date of the marriage and no less than 1 month before your wedding. The clergy of the parish or the Parish Office itself will assist you in preparing the form.
2. It is necessary for the Celebrant to see the Passport or Birth Certificate for people born in Australia. If you do not have one of these documents, or you were born overseas, the priest will discuss with you what other forms of identification are required in order to fulfil the legal requirements.
3. It is also necessary to view photographic identification confirming your current residential address. Drivers licence, proof of age card or current identification card displaying the cardholder's photograph are satisfactory evidence.
4. Consent for those aged under 18 years. Marriage of any person under 18 years without an order of a Judge or Magistrate is invalid. Two persons under 18 (years) are not permitted to marry each other.
5. Evidence of the Termination of a Previous Marriage. If a person has been divorced or widowed, evidence of such, viz. Decree Absolute of Divorce or Death Certificate, must be produced.

Please bring all relevant documentation to your first meeting with the clergy.

## Photography during *the* Service

To ensure the dignity of the occasion, photographers are instructed not to distract the bridal party or obscure the view of family and friends. Videos are permitted at a discreet distance and without additional lighting. Christ Church has worked with many fine photographers and is pleased to recommend those it knows provide excellent results at a reasonable price. The Garden of Remembrance on the south side of the church is not suitable for photographs, as cremated remains are interred there and it is set apart from all other uses.

# Information *for* couples planning *to* marry

## Refreshments *in the* Parish House

The Parish House is located directly adjacent to the Church and is a convenient venue that can be hired for refreshments or small functions after your wedding. Further details on hiring the Parish House can be obtained from the Parish Office.

## Car Parking

Car parking on the church grounds during school hours is extremely limited during term time. There is ample parking in Toorak Road and surrounding streets (2 hour limit during business hours). Guests parking at the church enter the grounds from Toorak Road.

## Wedding Fees

The standard fee for a wedding at Christ Church is \$3050. This includes fees for the Celebrant, organist and Verger, one vase of flowers, document preparation, ringing of the bell, and use of the building. Additional fees apply for service booklets, the choir and musical rehearsals, if required. A non-refundable deposit of \$700 is payable in advance to secure the booking. The balance of \$2350 is payable two weeks prior to the ceremony taking place. The choir and other musicians will be an extra expense and may be separately invoiced.

## CCSY Electronic Deposit Details

**Account name** Parish Council Current Account  
**BSB 703 122 Account number** 05009322

*Please include 'Wedding' in the 'Description' field with the initials of the couple being married. For example, If Tom Jones is marrying Shirley Bassey, then the description would be 'Wedding TJSB'.*

## Marriage *is* important

Your Celebrant is handing you this document because the decision to marry is one of the biggest decisions a couple can make. Marriage is a significant step which will bring a number of changes for you, your spouse and your family.

### The following information tells you:

- the process of getting married in Australia,
- some important legal consequences of getting married, and
- where relationship support services, such as marriage education, family counselling or dispute resolution services may be obtained.

## Getting Married *in* Australia

In Australia, marriage is regulated by the *Marriage Act 1961*, which sets out the process for getting married and the legal requirements of a valid marriage.

1. A completed **Notice of Intended Marriage** form must be given to your celebrant at least one month (and up to 18 months) before the wedding.
2. You and your partner must provide your celebrant **with evidence of your date and place of birth, identity and the end of any previous marriages.**
3. You must both sign the 'Declaration of no legal impediment to marriage'. By signing the Declaration, you declare that you believe that you are of marriageable age, and that there is no legal impediment to your marriage.
4. On your **wedding day**, your Celebrant will solemnise your marriage. Your Celebrant will then ask you, your partner and your witnesses to sign up to three marriage certificates.
5. After your wedding, **your marriage Celebrant will register the marriage** with the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages in the State or Territory where your marriage took place.

This information is provided pursuant to subsection 42(5A) of the Marriage Act 1961 and regulation 39A of the *Marriage Regulations 1963*

## Health *and* Welfare benefits

If you receive health or welfare benefits, you will need to contact the relevant agencies to advise them that you have married. These agencies will advise you if your benefits will change. You may lose benefits and even be penalised if you fail to tell them you have married within a reasonable time after the wedding.

## Changing your name

Any person who marries may choose to take their spouse's surname. You are not legally required to take your spouse's surname once you are married.

If you wish to take your spouse's surname, you must obtain a certificate of marriage issued by your state or territory Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. This is usually sufficient evidence to have your personal documentation (e.g. driver's licence) changed to your married surname.

The certificate you received on your wedding day is ceremonial and will not meet the identity requirements of many government agencies, such as the passport office.

## Citizenship

If you marry an Australian citizen, you do not have an automatic right to Australian citizenship. You will still need to apply for citizenship and satisfy the eligibility criteria. You can obtain further information from the Department of Immigration and Border Protection website at [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au)

## Making a Will

Marriage will invalidate any previous Wills unless your Will clearly shows you were planning this marriage when you made it.

It is important that you make a new Will when your personal circumstances change. This ensures that you have a valid will that gives effect to your intentions about how you want your assets to be distributed in the event of your death. A solicitor can help you make or change a Will.

## Taxation *after* marriage

When you marry, the amount of taxation you pay may change. It is advisable to contact the Australian Taxation Office, a tax agent or an accountant before marriage to discuss any tax implications.

# Strengthening *your* Marriage

## **BEFORE MARRIAGE: MARRIAGE EDUCATION**

Solid relationships set you up to meet the changes and challenges of life. It is important to develop good communication and sound relationship skills early, so that you can fall back on these skills during difficult times.

Pre-marriage education prepares couples for marriage by providing skills and information to build lifelong marriages. Courses are also available to explore the added dimension and complexity brought to a marriage by children from a previous relationship.

## **DURING MARRIAGE: FAMILY COUNSELLING**

Keeping relationships on track is not always easy. Relationship problems can arise at various stages of our lives. While having a shaky moment does not mean your relationship is in trouble, it may be a sign that you could do with some help.

Family counselling can help couples come to terms with the many changes that happen during a marriage, such as the personal and interpersonal issues to do with children and family. Family counsellors can help you work through emotional problems with your spouse or partner, or to reach agreement about your parental responsibilities.

## **MARRIAGE BREAKDOWN: FAMILY DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

Family Dispute Resolution (FDR) can help separating couples to reach agreement about property, money, and – most importantly – any children. The law requires separating families who have a parenting dispute to make a genuine effort to try to sort it out through FDR.

An accredited FDR Practitioner can help you discuss issues, look at options, and reach agreement. Importantly, FDR can help you to develop a parenting plan to set out arrangements for any children.

For more information about the services and advice available for couples and families, visit the Family Relationships Online Website at [www.familyrelationships.gov.au](http://www.familyrelationships.gov.au)

or phone the Family Relationship Advice Line **1800 050 321**

‘To love *and to cherish...*’



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