



# St Mary's Cathedral

St Mary's Road  
Sydney NSW 2000

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[www.stmaryscathedral.org.au](http://www.stmaryscathedral.org.au)

[info@stmaryscathedral.org.au](mailto:info@stmaryscathedral.org.au)

## GUIDELINES FOR WEDDINGS AT ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

### **PRIEST CELEBRANT**

Those from outside the Cathedral Parish are required to supply their own priest celebrant (or deacon) who must possess the faculties of the Archdiocese of Sydney. He will guide them through the process of preparation and will be responsible for all the papers, both Government and Church. At the time of booking the Cathedral, a letter from the priest confirming his availability for the chosen date and times needs to be presented. Catholics are asked to give to the officiating priest or deacon at least six months notice of their wedding.

If by six months before your marriage you have not found a priest celebrant (or deacon), please contact the Dean of the Cathedral.

Documents needed for priest celebrant (or deacon)

- Baptism Certificate (issued within a period of six months prior to the wedding).
- A full copy of Certificate of Birth (a current non-Australian Passport will suffice for those born overseas).
- Marriage declaration forms will be filled in by the priest.

### **NUPTIAL MASS OR WEDDING CEREMONY**

This is a faith issue which you discuss with your priest celebrant before making a final decision. Since a wedding (Ceremony or Nuptial Mass) is the official liturgy of the Church, it must be in accord with "The Rite of Marriage approved for use in Australia". Therefore your readings must be from scripture and cannot be paraphrases, poems or reflections. It is normally expected that a couple will want to have printed a service

booklet to encourage guests to participate in the service. However, your priest celebrant (or deacon) is required to ensure all printed material complies with the current copyright law. Books to assist you in preparing your ceremony are available at pre-marriage courses or at Catholic bookstores.

### **PRE-MARRIAGE EDUCATION COURSES**

These are recommended by both the Church and Government. There are many such courses around Sydney each year and you are encouraged to book early as numbers are limited.

### **SPIRITUAL PREPARATION**

Catholics are reminded that the proper spiritual preparation for the Sacrament of Matrimony is a devout reception of the Sacraments of Penance and the Blessed Eucharist.

### **BOOKINGS FOR WEDDINGS**

A proposed time and date should be checked with the Cathedral office: 9220 0400 or [info@stmaryscathedral.org.au](mailto:info@stmaryscathedral.org.au). The date and time will be confirmed via receipt of the application form.

The Cathedral and Cathedral Crypt are available for Weddings on Saturdays at 2pm and 4pm, or on weekdays at 3pm. There are no Weddings on Sundays or Public Holidays.

A tentative booking can be made by completing the Wedding Booking Form and returning it with payment in full, and will be confirmed within four weeks of submission.

### **SCHEDULE OF CHARGES**

For venue hire fees within St Mary's Cathedral, please call the Special Liturgies Officer on 9220 0453.

*Please note the following:*

- \$1500 will be retained if a booking is cancelled with less than 3 months notice.
- \$750 will be retained if a booking is cancelled with more than 3 months notice, but less than 6 months notice.
- \$500 will be retained if a booking is cancelled with more than 6 months notice, but less than 12 months notice.
- \$250 will be retained if a booking is cancelled with more than 12 months notice.

## **OFFERINGS FOR THE PRIEST CELEBRANT (OR DEACON)**

It is normal to make an offering to the priest who celebrates the Wedding. Please note, this is not included in the Cathedral fee.

## **WEDDING REHEARSALS**

Due to the nature of the Cathedral timetable, rehearsals are scheduled for **weekday** afternoons only between **2:30 and 4:30pm**.

## **PARKING**

There is no parking in the Cathedral grounds.

The Enacon Parking Station is located at the southern end of the Cathedral, underneath the Cathedral Square. Entry is via Cathedral Street. Please visit [www.enacon.com.au](http://www.enacon.com.au) for more information.

## **CATHEDRAL REGULATIONS**

### *Punctuality*

Due of the nature of bookings for the Cathedral, brides are asked to be on time. Please arrive at the foot of the main stairs at least **15** minutes before the scheduled time of the marriage to allow sufficient time for photographs.

Late arrival of the bride (more than 10 minutes) is unacceptable and can cause serious inconvenience to our staff, your guests and the next Wedding party. Late arrivals may result in musicians and bell ringers being unable to provide services for your Wedding and a shortened ceremony.

### *Flowers and Pew Decorations*

Except during the season of Lent (Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday), you are most welcome to provide flowers (two arrangements only) and/or

removable pew decorations. However during the season of Lent, no flowers or decorations are permissible in keeping with the austerity and penitential spirit of the season.

If you require further assistance, please contact the Sacristan Mr. Chris Backhouse (Wednesday–Sunday) on 9220 0449 or email [chris.backhouse@stmaryscathedral.org.au](mailto:chris.backhouse@stmaryscathedral.org.au)

#### *Throwing of confetti*

The use of confetti, rice, flower petals etc. is strictly forbidden within St Mary's Cathedral or on the property.

#### *Candles*

Candles other than the marriage candles are not allowed in the Cathedral or Crypt. If you intend to have a Marriage candle, a dish must be provided to prevent dripping of wax on the sanctuary floor and or furnishings.

#### *Doves*

The release of any doves after a Wedding ceremony or Nuptial Mass should take place on the council grounds off the Cathedral southern steps area.

#### *External Musicians and Dancing*

If external musicians and/or dancers perform before or after a Wedding ceremony or Nuptial Mass, this should take place on the council grounds off the Cathedral southern steps area with permission and approval from the City of Sydney beforehand. Please contact the City of Sydney Outdoor Space Booking Team on 02 9265 9333.

#### *Photography and Video*

Photographers are welcome in the Cathedral to record your ceremony provided they are discreet. Photography is only allowed to be taken from specific areas in the Cathedral (please see map reference on page 9).

Flash photography is not permitted during the ceremony. Please give the photographer/s a copy of the notes for photographs and video personnel. The use of video in the Cathedral is permitted. Flood lighting is not

permitted. Successful video in the Cathedral is difficult to achieve due to the changing light. The video camera person is permitted to walk around the Cathedral during the Wedding ceremony provided they are discreet, but are not permitted at any time within the sanctuary area. As with photographers, video people must consult with the Special Liturgies Officer before the Wedding.

#### *Drone Photography*

In accordance with St Mary's Cathedral policy, the Cathedral does not approve the use of drones both inside the Cathedral and the land and airspace surrounding the outside of the Cathedral (**Cathedral Property**) in circumstances where the drone is operated for the purpose of a wedding or for wedding photography or videography.

If a drone is found operating on Cathedral Property, St Mary's Cathedral may report it to the Civil Aviation Safety Authority.

#### *Cathedral Security*

Please note that as the Cathedral will remain open to the public, people visiting the Cathedral who are not guests of the Wedding will be restricted by the Cathedral Security Officer to the rear of the Cathedral.

## MUSIC AT WEDDINGS

You must contact the Cathedral Music Administrator to arrange music for your Wedding and to discuss any selections.

*Ms Hannah Burt*

*St Mary's Cathedral*

*St. Mary's Road Sydney NSW 2000*

*Office (02) 9220 0481 | [music@stmaryscathedral.org.au](mailto:music@stmaryscathedral.org.au)*

Both the Cathedral and its Crypt are large, resonant spaces. The cathedral organs are uniquely designed to fill these spaces adequately and the Cathedral organists are professional musicians who are experts at providing appropriate liturgical music.

If you wish to have any music at your Wedding, you must first book a Cathedral Organist through the Music Administrator.

*Couples are not permitted to book or to supply their own musicians in St Mary's Cathedral.*

If you would like music at your Wedding, the first step is to arrange a meeting with one of the Cathedral Organists through the Music Administrator. You may choose music for your Wedding in consultation with one of the Cathedral Organists. All music performed in the Cathedral must have been approved by the Music department. It must be liturgically appropriate and will be performed live. It is not permitted to play recorded music at the Cathedral. Only Cathedral organists may play the Cathedral organs.

*Soloists and Choir:*

The Cathedral can provide a professional soloist to sing at your Wedding. Please let the Music Administrator know if you would like to book a soloist. The boys of Cathedral Choir are not available to sing at Weddings. The Cathedral can provide a professional adult choir. If you would like a choir to sing, please contact the Music Administrator.

## **MUSIC FEES**

For music fees within St Mary's Cathedral, please call the Music Administrator on 9220 0481.

\$100 will be retained if a booking is cancelled with more than two weeks notice, otherwise \$150 will be retained.

All music fees must be paid in full a month before your Wedding. If you fail to make full payment in advance, the musicians will be cancelled.

Please send a cheque or money order for the music fees made payable to St Mary's Cathedral to:

*Music Administrator  
St Mary's Cathedral Sydney  
1 St Mary's Road  
Sydney NSW 2000*

Please be sure to include details of your Wedding with the payment.

## **CATHEDRAL BELLS**

The St Mary's Basilica Society of Change Ringers is a voluntary group, under the patronage of the Archbishop, whose chief aim is to ring the Cathedral bells on Sundays, and for other occasions, both sacred and secular.

The fee is \$500 and the bells are normally rung for 20 minutes before and 20 minutes after the ceremony. As mentioned previously, punctuality is crucial.

To book bells, please complete and return the booking form (.pdf available for download on the Cathedral website) at least two months before the Wedding is due to take place. Ringing for Weddings in the Crypt may be arranged on a case by case basis.

Your booking will be confirmed by letter.

*St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica Society of Change Ringers*

*C/- St Mary's Cathedral*

*St Mary's Road*

*Sydney NSW 2000*

*or phone the bell tower on 02 9220 0413*

*or Margaret Hill 0401 209 521*

## NOTES FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS AND VIDEO PERSONNEL

The following are NOT allowed:

- Extra light (floodlights, flash lights during the ceremony);
- Entry by photographers onto the altar area (the Sanctuary) or the pulpit;

Please ensure that photographers have proper identification with them (i.e. business card) to show their capacity as a Wedding photographer.

Please see below for the designated photo areas, shown in **ORANGE**.

