

Marriage in the Anglican Parish of Wagga Wagga

St John's,
Wagga Wagga

St Mary's,
North Wagga Wagga

St Luke's,
South Wagga Wagga

St Saviour's,
Ladysmith



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations on your decision to be married.

We hope that the time leading up to your wedding day will be an exciting and happy one. We know it will also be busy, so we are ready and willing to help in any way we can to make your wedding day extra special.

This booklet will help you with some of the more practical aspects of planning your Church wedding. As part of our preparations we will sit down together and walk through this entire document.

We want your day to be truly special, and a great blessing for you as you begin the amazing journey that is marriage.

Fr Michael Armstrong

Rector

Anglican Parish of Wagga Wagga

The Process

The process of booking a wedding is simple:

- Ring our Parish Office (02 69377522) and make a time to come and check out one of our Churches.
- The Parish Office can also book a day and time for your wedding and a time to meet one of our clergy team and fill in your legal paperwork (at least 31 days beforehand). A non-refundable deposit is paid at this stage to secure your date and time.
- Meet with the Rector at least one month in advance to go through the legal requirements, fill in paperwork and reflect upon your marriage. Depending upon your circumstances we may also need to apply to the Bishop to conduct an outdoors wedding or if you have been previously divorced. Please note that this requires additional time.
- We do not provide “marriage preparation” or “counselling” to couples. We take marriage seriously and will meet and talk with you about this commitment, and will offer whatever support we can for this life long journey. Should we discern with you that some further assistance may be required, such as a professional counsellor or a marriage preparation course hosted by another professional body, we may refer you to this before proceeding with the marriage. Our Clergy reserve the right, as per regulations, to refuse marriage.
- A few days prior to your wedding you will need to undertake a rehearsal.

Practicalities

Fees

A wedding at St John’s entails a fee of \$950.00. This fee includes all the legal requirements, the priest, exclusive use of the building for 1.5 hours (including before and after), an organist/or your own music (copyright), standard silk flowers and a vergers to assist during the service.

At St John’s a peal of bells is available for an extra \$250.00.

A meeting or rehearsal that includes our organist incurs an additional fee of \$50.00.

Fresh flowers can be placed in the Church by arrangement with the priest and at your own cost.

A wedding at St Luke’s, St Mary’s or St Saviour’s entails a fee of \$850.00. This fee includes all the legal requirements, the priest and exclusive use of the building for 1.5 hours (including before and after). This fee does not include an organist, but this can be negotiated. You will provide your own music and PA, including a person to operate the system.

Services conducted by a priest outside of these buildings will entail a fee of \$550.00. This includes all legal requirements and the priest. We do not provide a PA, tables or any other needs for the service.

A non-refundable deposit of \$300.00 is required to confirm your booking. Full payment must be made two weeks prior to the wedding rehearsal. Cheques should be made payable to “The Anglican Parish of Wagga Wagga”.

Flowers & Decorations

The Parish provides two sets of silk flowers (lilies and other white flowers). Fresh flowers are able to be added to the Church at your own cost and should be negotiated with the priest. Decorations in the Church are also welcome but will require negotiation with the priest as there could be other weddings or events on the same day.

Ushers

It will be helpful to your guests if you arrange to have two ushers available 20 minutes before the commencement of your wedding service.

Don't be late!

Being on time is essential. Other events take place in the life of the Church and so to make sure you have all the time you need, we ask that you be on time. We allow for 1.5 hours for a wedding, including arrival time, the marriage and time for photos afterwards.

The bridegroom's party will need to arrive 25 minutes before your scheduled time, and the Bridal party will arrive 5 minutes before the service commences.

Please note that we hold the right to postpone or delay your wedding should you be more than 15 minutes late.

It is advisable that on your wedding invitations you might put a fifteen minute earlier time slot, such as "2:45pm for a 3:00pm service". This will allow guests to know that you will value their promptness.

Music

We have a preference for live music played by talented musicians as this improves the flow and feel of any service.

You will require three pieces of music:

1. The entrance of the bridal party (length depends on number in the party);
2. The signing of the register (should be at least 4 minutes long);
3. Recessional (something to leave by).

There are three options for music at St John's Church:

1. Our organist and/or singers;

If you desire an organist to play on our beautiful Johannus Organ we suggest some of the following as tried and tested favourites:

(1) Entrance Music:

- Bridal March (Wagner) (Here comes the bride . . .)
- Trumpet Tune (Purcell)
- Trumpet Voluntary (Clarke)
- St Anthony Chorale (arr Haydn)
- Canon in D (Pachelbel)
- March from "Scipio" (Handel)

(2) Signing of the Register:

- Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (Bach)
- The Swan (Saint-Saens)

- Ave Maria (Schubert)
- Pie Jesu (Faure)
- Air on the G String (Bach)
- To a Wild Rose (Macdowell)

(3) Recessional Music

- Wedding March (Mendelssohn)
- March from "Scipio" (Handel)
- Trumpet Tune and Air (Purcell)
- Trumpet Voluntary (Clarke)
- Minuet from Fireworks Music (Handel)
- Nun Danket Alle Gott (Karg-Elert)

A quick web search will allow you to hear these tunes and many more. Our organist needs at least one month's advance notice to ensure the high standard of the music. If you require a meeting with our organist, or rehearsal, please note that this entails a fee of \$50.00.

2. Live musician/s of your own employment;

We welcome you employing musicians to play and have accommodated a variety of instruments and styles in the past. We would ask that prior to booking such groups you would discuss this with the Priest.

3. Recorded music (within copyright restrictions)

A selection of pre-recorded music may also be played, provided copyright laws are observed. Our Parish adheres to copyright of music requirements and your fee covers the usage of most music within the Church. The Priest should be consulted in relation to music that will make your day a memorable one – for all the right reasons 😊.

Marriages performed outdoors are responsible for their own copyright provision.

Photography

Your photographer is most welcome. They should consult with the priest prior to the event to ensure that the best location for photographs is found, and also to ensure that your service is not disturbed by photographers moving around during the service. It is advisable, if possible, that they should come to the rehearsal to see what takes place, and to plan the most ideal locations to capture your wedding.

Video

Professional or armature video is welcome. However video operators require a special "Single – Event video license" from AMCOS/ARIA before a wedding can be videotaped. A license application form is available from: http://www.apraamcos.com.au/media/3518/single-event-video_licence-2014-15_distributed.pdf . Please make your family and friends aware of these copyright laws. Refusal to allow videoing on the day can cause confusion and embarrassment.

Something to throw?

Traditionally confetti, rose petals or rice has been thrown over brides and grooms to celebrate the event. Unfortunately these make a huge mess, stain clothes and have environmental consequences. We would suggest that bubbles would be a preferable alternative, and can be used within the Church. You may like to provide some for your guests.

Service Sheets

We are happy to help you to prepare an order of service if you require one. An electronic outline is available from our web site. Unfortunately we cannot print these for you – but can certainly recommend someone if you need this.

Married Outside

It is always lovely to be married outside, but it is best to have a back up plan. We suggest booking an alternative indoor location as a precaution – and make sure that you put this information on your wedding invitation (for example: In the event of unfavourable weather, our service will take place at XYZ. Send a text to X's Best Man on 12345678901 to confirm on the day).

Marriage outdoors also has some logistical requirements in terms of being seen and being heard. We suggest that you arrange for a PA system and some seating (especially for older relatives).

Getting married in parks and gardens in Wagga Wagga usually requires a booking to be made through Wagga Wagga City Council. There is sometimes a fee associated.

We discourage allowing your guests to drink during the ceremony – experience has shown that this can result in some less than memorable events, and is less than respectful to all present.

Change of Address

Please let us know if you change your address or phone number after you have made a booking. If we cannot contact you we will assume you are no longer intending to marry and your booking will lapse.

Address for Invitations

St John's Anglican Church Wagga Wagga
6-12 Church Street, Wagga Wagga

St Luke's Anglican Church South Wagga Wagga
Cnr Docker & Shaw St, South Wagga Wagga
(Diagonally opposite Wagga Wagga Base Hospital)

St Mary's Anglican Church North Wagga Wagga
Cnr William & George Streets North Wagga Wagga

St Saviour's Anglican Church Ladysmith
Keajura Road, Ladysmith
(off Tumbarumba Road outside Ladysmith Village)

Readings

At an Anglican Wedding Service we have at least one reading from the bible, and a maximum of two readings. There is traditionally one from the Old Testament, and one from the New Testament.

You can choose a suitable reading from the list below for use in your wedding service, or talk with the priest about other options.

Other readings or poems may also be appropriate and may be negotiated with the priest. However there is a maximum of two readings, and one will be from the bible and is the one that is usually read second. Guests are most welcome to read these at your ceremony.

Genesis:	Chapter 1, verse 26 to Chapter 2, verse 4a.
Psalms:	128; 37 (verses 3 to 7); 67; 23; 100; 121; 138.
Ecclesiastes	Chapter 4, verses 9 to 12
Ephesians:	Chapter 3, verses 14 to end.
1 John:	Chapter 3, verses 18 to 24.
1 John:	Chapter 4, verses 7 to 16.
1 Corinthians:	Chapter 12, verse 31 to Chapter 13, verse 13
St. Mathew:	Chapter 7, verses 21 to 29.
St. John:	Chapter 2, verses 1 to 11.
St. John:	Chapter 15, verses 9 to 17.

Go to <http://bible.oremus.org/> to see these verses. If you intend to print them out make sure they are the New Revised Standard Version (Anglicized).

Rehearsal

It is normal that a rehearsal takes place with the bridal party before the marriage takes place, usually the night before. This ensures that your day runs smoothly, and that everyone knows what takes place during the service. This time is usually negotiated at your first meeting with the priest. The rehearsal usually takes one hour. Please be on time for this rehearsal.

We ask that:

- The Bride and Groom must be present;
- The Bridesmaids and Groomsman be present;
- The two witnesses need to be present (this may be Best Man and Matron of Honour);
- If someone (usually Dad) is “giving the bride away” – they should come along;
- You bring along any music, service sheets, bubbles or other items required for the service – that way you know they are already present and ready to go;
- The Bride and Bridesmaids bring along the shoes they will wear on the day (all will be explained).

If you are getting married outside, or at another venue, it is often good to find out if you can also have a rehearsal at that place and book the space for a time negotiated with the Priest.

Legal Speak

Marriage is celebrated within the framework of the Commonwealth Marriage Act, which is a Federal Law governing all marriages celebrated within Australia and its Territories. Failure to comply with all the provisions of the Marriage Act involves heavy penalties, invalidation of the marriage, and possible gaol terms.

At least one month (31 + 1 days) prior to the date you will need to meet with the priest who is conducting your wedding and complete the legal requirements for marriage.

The Service conducted is as required by the Commonwealth and prescribed by the Bishop of the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn. The service is unable to be altered.

The following areas are applicable, and you need to be aware of them:

Minimum Age

Under the law of the Commonwealth of Australia, the marriage of any person under 18 years of age without the order of a judge or magistrate is invalid. If you are under 18 years of age marriage is still attainable, however, will require greater notice so that permission may be sought.

Birth Certificates

An original Birth Certificate must be shown to the priest at least one month prior to the marriage. If you do not have your birth certificate one may be obtained by contacting the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. This does have a cost associated with it, and will require an extended period of time. An original and valid passport is also an acceptable form of identification.

Evidence of Death

A Death Certificate must be produced before the Marriage of a person whose previous union terminated in the death of the partner may proceed.

Divorce

The Priest must be shown the Decree stating the date of the termination of the previous marriage. Information concerning the date of the first union and the number of children (together with dates of birth) must also be supplied to the Priest.

An application to the Bishop of the Diocese in regard to the marriage of divorced persons is required if either party has been previously divorced. Please note that this may require up to three weeks to obtain, so you need to allow more than one months notice.

Compulsion

It is an offence under the act for any person to be married under duress, compulsion, or in any other way against his/her own free will.

Sobriety

It is an offence under the Act, for any marriage to be solemnised if one or both of the parties to the union appear under the influence of, or affected by, alcohol or drugs. So please, no alcohol or drugs in the 24 hours before your marriage. If the Priest feels that any members of the party are not sober, the marriage will be post-poned.

Witnesses

You must have two witnesses to the Marriage, who sign the Registers. Both witnesses must be over the age of 18 years and Australian citizens. These are usually your Matron of Honour and Best Man. However, it can be any person present at your wedding.

Legal Documentation

A number of Legal Documents must be signed as part of the Marriage Contract.

1. Notification of Intended Marriage

This form must be signed and witnessed no later than one full month before the date of the Marriage. In all normal circumstances, this should be completed two months prior to the wedding and is usually done at your first meeting with the Priest. You will need to bring along your birth certificates. If you have been married previously you will need to bring a copy of your divorce papers.

2. Declarations

Statutory Declarations as to legal fitness of the couple to be married must be signed before the Marriage and be witnessed by the Priest of the marriage. This is usually done at your rehearsal.

3. Marriage Registry

The Parish Register is signed and completed on the day of the marriage, as well as a copy for the Registrar General. This is registered for you.

4. Marriage Certificate

Your marriage certificate is provided on the day of the marriage.

5. Registered Marriage Certificate

Similar to your birth certificate a document showing the official registration of your marriage is available from the office of Births, Deaths and Marriages. This can be applied for online:

<http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/marriages/marriages.htm>

Your marriage is usually registered by us on the first business day after your wedding. It can take several weeks for your Registration to be officially lodged by the Registry Office and a certificate obtained.

Your Wedding Service

As part of the Anglican Church of Australia our service follows the pattern of worship outlined in *A Prayer Book for Australia*. The following is an extract of that service.

Entrance

A suitable song is played to welcome the bridal party.

Statement of Intention

The priest outlines to all present the basis of marriage – love.

We have come together in the presence of God to witness the marriage of *N* and *NN*, and to ask God's blessing on them as we share their joy . . . *(the introduction continues)*

The Reading/s

A poem may be read followed by a reading from the bible. The bible reading is always the last word.

The Wedding

N, will you give yourself to *NN*, to be her husband, to live with her according to God's word? Will you love her, comfort her, honour and protect her, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her so long as you both shall live? *I will.*

NN, will you give yourself to *N*, to be his wife, to live with her according to God's word? Will you love him, comfort him, honour and protect him, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him so long as you both shall live? *I will.*

Families and friends, you are witnesses to these vows. Will you do everything in your power to uphold *N* and *NN* in their marriage? *We will.*

I, *N*, in the presence of God, take you, *NN*, to be my wife/husband:
to have and to hold from this day forward,
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish,
so long as we both shall live.
All this I vow and promise.

The partner responds in reciprocal.

The rings are blessed and then exchanged.

I give you this ring as a symbol of our marriage. With all that I am and all that I have I honour you; in the name of God. Amen

I receive this ring as a symbol of your love and faithfulness to the end of our days. May God enable us to grow in love together.

Hands are joined and wrapped with the priests stole.

Before God and in the presence of us all, *N* and *NN* have joined hands and made their solemn vows, promising life-long faithfulness to each other. In the name of God, I declare them to be husband and wife. What God has joined together, let no one separate.

A blessing is said upon the couple.

The couple are pronounced married and invited to kiss one another.

The Register is Signed. During which an appropriate song is played.

The Prayers

Prayers are said for the couple and for their future.

The Blessing

A final blessing is given and the congregation stand to welcome the new couple.

Contact Us

The Parish Office

is located at 6-12 Church Street

Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Phone: 02 69377522

Email: frmichael@anglicanwaggawagga.com.au

Postal address:

6-12 Church Street

Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

We look forward to meeting with you
and helping to create a special day
which will be a blessing upon your continuing journey.

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