

FLOWERS

Provision of flowers and pew bows are included in the marriage fee. Because on most weekends there can be several weddings taking place in the Church, it is normally not possible to cater for any special requests regarding the flowers you would like however you are welcome to ask about this through the office.

FEES

The total marriage fee is currently \$950 and covers the Church, Minister, flowers, organist, the rehearsal and wedding service, church officer and the preparation of legal documentation.

\$100 is required as a non-refundable deposit when the booking is made.

No booking can be recorded until the deposit is paid.

A cheque for the balance of the fees is to be paid to the church office at least two weeks prior your wedding, (Payable to: 'St John's Uniting Church') or you may do a direct deposit to our bank a/c: BSB 063-129, a/c 1011 1941. Please email a copy of the receipt to office@stjohnsessendon.org.au

PHOTOGRAPHY

We will try to ensure that a good record of your wedding is obtained. Non-flash photography is permitted during the ceremony only at the entrance, the signing of the register, the giving of certificate and the exit.

Videos are permitted only after discussion with the Minister. Such filming will be done from a fixed and unobtrusive place in the church with natural lighting only. (Arc lights are not allowed because of the discomfort caused to the bridal party and the Minister.)

On the day of the ceremony, the photographer and video operators are required to see the Minister or our Church Officer for advice on the Church's requirements.

PLEASE NOTE: the church's policy is that there is to be no throwing of confetti, rice, rose petals, etc, either inside the church or in the church grounds. Also the church and the grounds are alcohol free. We expect these policies to be strictly adhered to.

MINISTER

Rev Mark Dunn

03 9375 1065

mark@dunn.id.au

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

(9 - 12 noon Mon - Fri)

03 9370 9263

office@stjohnsessendon.org.au

ST JOHN'S UNITING CHURCH ESSENDON

A place of care and belonging for families, singles, the young and the wise



MARRIAGE INFORMATION

For couples inquiring about being married



Minister: Rev Mark Dunn

Cnr Mt Alexander Road and Buckley Street

Essendon 3040

Church Office Phone: 03 9370 9263 (9am -12pm, Mon - Fri)

Email: office@stjohnsessendon.org.au

ST JOHN'S IS A SAFE PLACE FOR ALL PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

REGARDLESS OF

AGE, RACE, CREED, GENDER, CULTURAL BACKGROUND OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION

CONGRATULATIONS!

We are pleased to receive your inquiry to marry at St John's, and gladly provide the following information. This is a big decision and we would like to help in any way we can as you make plans for your life together. Please consider the next few comments carefully, as the step you are taking here is one of the most important you will ever make.

WHAT HAVING A 'CHURCH WEDDING' MEANS

Getting married is worth taking seriously. There are several matters for you to consider when asking for a wedding to be conducted as a Christian celebration:

1. This is an act of worship which puts the marriage of a man and a woman within the framework of Christian faith. It assumes that at least one of the partners is a practising Christian.
2. Preparation for marriage is critical, particularly in these times of great pressure on all relationships. Each couple is strongly encouraged to participate in a pre-marriage preparation course with your own Minister or with LifeWorks. LifeWorks relationship education programs are about promoting healthy relationships. They are designed primarily to raise couples' levels of awareness about their relationship and are an opportunity to think about what goes into creating a healthy committed marriage relationship. These programs are not intended to change your mind about your decision to marry but to enrich your relationship and provide knowledge and skills that you can use.
3. The website: www.lifeworks.com.au/couples-programs. The cost for the group course is \$225 and this amount is paid directly to LifeWorks however some couples may prefer the \$295 Individual Couples Program.
4. The Minister expects to meet the couple at least twice before the celebration and hopes to welcome you to some Sunday services. A number of pamphlets will be given to couples.
5. Several forms need to be filled out. The first is an application to marry, the second is a declaration that there is no impediment to marrying; the final forms are signed within the ceremony.
6. On this day you will be publicly asking your families and friends to join with you to witness your vows to each other before God. We will be delighted to help you explore why you are seeking a 'church wedding' and what that means for you.

THE STEPS WE TAKE

Please read the following material and the attached letter carefully. Once you wish to confirm your booking we ask that you fill out the return slip and return it to the church office. An introductory session to meet the Minister follows when we outline our approach to marriage and preparation for life together.

- It is hoped that the couple will worship with the congregation several times during the preparation for their marriage and return each year around their Wedding Anniversary time to give thanks to God for another year and to pray for their future.
- There is normally a rehearsal in the church shortly before the wedding, the date/time of which you will negotiate with our Minister. If you require extra rehearsals or long rehearsals a fee of \$50 per hour will be charged for time above the one hour standard rehearsal.
- On the day of the wedding, the church will be open a minimum of half an hour before the set time of the wedding, and the grounds should be vacated half an hour after completion of the service. This will give sufficient time should a following wedding be scheduled.
- We provide a car park which can accommodate up to 50 cars, however, our premises are often used by other organisations, hence we cannot guarantee that there will be sufficient parking available on the day of your wedding.

THE SERVICE

The service, being a Christian worship occasion, follows the rites of The Uniting Church in Australia. A booklet with the Order of Service is provided, with notes for your guidance. The Order of Service for wedding guests will be the responsibility of the couple to set up and print in consultation with the Minister. We can provide a data disk of the marriage service if this will help your preparation. The colours of the church year will normally be displayed in the Church and **Church furniture should not be moved.**

MUSIC

St John's has a fine pipe organ and competent organist and it is normal to have suitable entrance music and a wedding march for the recessional. The organ is also usually played during the signing of the Marriage Register.

A hymn or two may be included in the ceremony but this is not essential.

The Church uses 'Together in Song', (the Australian Hymn Book) and we can provide you with some hymn suggestions if needed.

The church has a comprehensive sound system. A CD player is available for your use. Several audio ports (standard XLR 3 pin) are available should soloists, etc wish to use their own microphones in conjunction with our mixer. Leads are available. We discourage the use of 'large scale' audio equipment being brought in.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

You are required to complete a Notice of Intended Marriage, between one and six months before your wedding. This is usually attended to with the Minister when it is agreed that your wedding will be at St John's. You will need to bring Full Birth Certificates and/or Passports, and evidence of the termination of any previous marriage (ie. Death Certificate or Divorce papers). A Statutory Declaration must be completed before your marriage can be celebrated. This is usually done at the rehearsal.