

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 not possible to cater for any special requests regarding flowers, nor are you permitted to organise your own flowers.

FEES - WHEN YOU USE YOUR OWN MINISTER

The total marriage fee is currently \$950 and covers the Church, flowers, organist, the rehearsal and wedding service, church officer and administration costs. If you are using a Uniting Church minister, the fee is \$700.

\$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 account BSB 063-129, a/c 1011 1941. Please email a copy of the receipt to office@stjohnsessendon.org.au

PHOTOGRAPHY

We are happy 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 the certificate and the exit.

Videos are permitted only after discussion with your 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 your Minister or 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

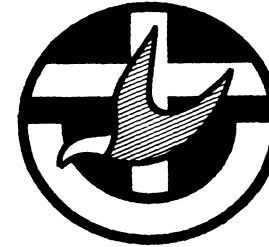
(9 - 12 noon Mon - Fri)

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
by a Minister other than the St John's Minister



Minister: Rev Mark Dunn

Cnr Mt Alexander Road and Buckley Street
Essendon 3040

Church Office Phone: 03 9370 9263

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 a relationship education program. These programs 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. They 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. Your Minister will need to contact the St John's Minister requesting permission to conduct your wedding at St John's.
4. 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.
5. 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 encourage you explore why you are seeking a 'church wedding' and what that means for you.

THE STEPS WE TAKE

Please read this brochure and the attached letter carefully. Once you wish to confirm your booking we ask that you fill out the booking form and return it to the church office with your \$100 deposit.

1. It is hoped that the couple will worship with the congregation once or twice during the preparation time so as to become familiar with St John's. We invite you to return each year around your Wedding Anniversary time to give thanks to God for another year and to pray for your future.

2. There is normally a rehearsal in the church shortly before the wedding. Our Church Officer will open up the church and attend this session of approximately one hour duration and answer any matters pertaining to the church facilities, etc. Please negotiate this with your Minister and our Church Office. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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 will be conducted by a Minister in good standing with his/her denomination. (A Civil Celebrant is not such a person.) The Order of Service for wedding guests will be the responsibility of the couple to set up and print in consultation with your Minister. The seasonal 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 an accomplished 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 should be attended to with your Minister when it is agreed that your wedding will be at St John's. You will need to supply 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.