



St John The Evangelist Parish Riverstone

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Jude 1:2: Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.

Sincere congratulations on your forthcoming Marriage. Wishing you many blessings, may the Lord truly be the strength, support and love that binds your life together.

St John's Marriage Information

Marriage is a sacrament, a sacred action by which a man and woman are joined together in Christ. That union stands as a sign of the fidelity and permanence of Christ's love for the Church. God unites your lives and in doing so enriches the Church and world. St Johns is required to comply with the obligations of the Diocese of Parramatta.

Please read the information provided carefully so that your wedding is prayerful, memorable, special and the dignity of the church liturgical traditions are not compromised.

MARRIAGE BOOKING AND PREPARATION

The Catholic Church requires six (6) months' notice of your intended wedding. Please avoid making any other bookings until the church date is confirmed, including booking of a reception hall. Couples are to complete the Wedding Booking Form and return to the parish office with a non-refundable deposit of \$100.

Prior to getting married in a Catholic church, all couples will be asked to reflect on their commitment to each other and are strongly urged to undertake marriage education to prepare for married life. The completion of marriage education is a vital part, often overlooked, of preparing for your life partnership with your loved one. The marriage education course is offered by the Diocese of Parramatta. Prompt registration and completion of this course is expected. Visit www.parracatholic.org/pmp for details. A certificate of completion will be provided to St John's parish. Please allow time to complete the course before your marriage.

APPOINTMENTS WITH THE PRIEST

You will need at least two (2) appointments with the priest to prepare your wedding – please contact the parish office six months before the wedding to make your first appointment. At these appointments, the priest will help you complete the necessary documentation and assist you with the planning of the wedding ceremony. It is recommended that a rehearsal be arranged. Please organise the rehearsal date with the parish office.

COMPLETING YOUR MARRIAGE DOCUMENTATION

To assist in the planning the following documents are to be submitted to the Parish Priest at you first appointment.

- Birth Certificates (original)
- Current driver's license OR Passport (original)
- Baptism Certificate (Catholic/other Religions) from the church where the bride and groom were baptised. This is not the original certificate issued on the date of your baptism. It is a certificate signed and dated from the current parish priest. To obtain this certificate contact the parish of baptism within 6 months of your wedding date.
- Non-Catholic a certificate from NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages certifying you have not been married.
- Confirmation certificate from the church of Confirmation (optional).
- For previous marriages, death certificate if former spouse is deceased OR annulment.

PLANNING YOUR WEDDING CEREMONY

To assist you in the planning of your wedding ceremony, please be aware of the following information:

- **Flowers in the Church:** Flowers to be organised by the couple. The floral and other decorations are determined in accord with the liturgical Seasons of the Church's year - i.e: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time.
- **Pew Decorations:** You may provide decorations for use on the pews of the church. Please note that the use of blue tac and other adhesive materials to attach decorations to pews is not permitted. The usage of rice, confetti, flower petals and similar items are not permitted.
- **Ceremonial Music:** Music for the wedding ceremony is to be arranged by the couple. As a church wedding service is a religious celebration, only sacred music can be used. These include songs based on Christian scripture and/or sacred poems. All music must be approved by the priest prior to the ceremony. Ideally, musicians should be used for the wedding ceremony.
- **Wedding booklet:** The preparation of an Order of Service, a booklet that outlines the ceremony, greatly assists your guests to be familiar with the ceremony. These booklets are prepared and printed by the couple after planning with the priest. Please forward a draft copy to the Parish Office with Hymns for approval before final print. Please note that you must provide the priest one copy in font size 20, printed on A4 paper, which will be placed in a A4 display folder for the priest.
- **Parish Grounds:** Our Parish does not allow large/heavy vehicle e.g trucks to enter our parish carpark.

- **Offerings:** A non-refundable deposit of \$100 is required to confirm your wedding booking. This is paid at the parish office when the wedding booking form is returned, prior to your first meeting with the priest. The parish secretary will organise the date for your first meeting.

There is a suggested offering of \$600 (*includes non-refundable deposit*) for couples to use St John's for their wedding ceremony with the parish priest. Offering to be paid 1 month prior to the ceremony to the Riverstone Parish.

If seeking to use St John's church for the wedding ceremony with your preferred priest (not parish priest), the suggested offering is \$500 (*includes non-refundable deposit*) to be paid to the Riverstone Parish 1 month prior to the ceremony. Please keep in mind that the couple are required to make an offering to their priest as well.

If seeking the Riverstone Parish Priest for a wedding ceremony outside the boundary area, the suggested offering is \$700 (*includes non-refundable deposit*). Offering to be paid 1 month prior to the ceremony to the Riverstone Parish.

Any wedding vows renewals - suggested offering is the same as stated above.

- **Photography and Videography:** Videography and photography are welcomed however, should be aware of the sacredness and solemnity of the ceremony at all times. We ask that professionals consult with the priest prior to the ceremony.
- **Sacrament of Reconciliation:** The Sacrament of Reconciliation is not offered at the rehearsal. The couple are strongly encouraged to seek the Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession prior to their wedding as a most appropriate preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage. Reconciliation occurs on a Saturday afternoon between 4:30pm and 5:30pm unless prior arrangements are made.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Parish Office on 02 9627 1176 or email stjohns10@bigpond.com

We look forward to sharing this special time.

God Bless,

Father Zakaria Gayed
Parish Priest