



Infant Jesus Church
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Wedding Guidelines

Your Marriage will be perhaps the most important event of your life. Please read the following information carefully.

The Meaning of the Sacrament

The marriage covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of their whole life, has been raised by Christ to the dignity of a Sacrament between the baptised. By its very nature it is ordered to the well-being of the spouses and the procreation and upbringing of children.

Sacraments were instituted by Christ the Lord and entrusted to the Church. They are actions of Christ and the Church by which faith is expressed and strengthened, worship offered to God and our sanctification brought about. In their celebration all the members of Christ's faithful must show great reverence and due care. The spouses confer the sacrament upon each other by expressing their consent before the Church. They receive the Holy Spirit as the seal of their covenant. The Spirit is the continuously renewed source of their love and fidelity.



The best spiritual preparation for the sacrament of marriage is the regular celebration of the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation. Your wedding preparation can be a time of spiritual renewal for your Christian faith as you discuss, plan and hope for the future.

Differences of religious denomination do not constitute an insurmountable obstacle for marriage when the couple succeed in placing in common what they have received from their respective communities and learn from each other the way in which each lives in fidelity to Christ. To be married within the Catholic Church, at least one of the partners must be Catholic. Both parties must be free to marry. This means that neither party has been married before, or if they have, that they can produce either the Death Certificate of their previous spouse or a Divorce Certificate with the declaration from the Matrimonial Tribunal of freedom to marry. Couples are also requested to bring in their baptism certificates (if applicable), issued not longer than six months prior to their wedding date, and their birth certificates.

Getting Married at Infant Jesus Church

Here at Morley, we ask the couple to have a series of meetings with one of the priests. There is an initial meeting so that they can meet him and he can get to know them. This also enables the **date and time of the wedding to be confirmed**. Once this has been arranged, the Church booking can be finalised through the Parish office.



There is a Church usage fee of \$250 payable when the booking is made. (\$150 refundable if booking cancelled). Also, it is traditional courtesy to offer a donation to thank him and recognise his involvement in the preparation and celebration of your wedding.

Conditions of Church usage:

- We request that **NO** confetti, petals or rice be used.
- We also request that all ribbons and posies used to decorate the pews are **TIED** on. *Thumb tacks/drawing pins are not to be used as these leave holes/scratches in the wood of the pews and sticky tape leaves marks.*
- It is desirable that you provide flowers to decorate the sanctuary. These may be left in the Church afterwards, if you so wish.
- Should you desire any music/singing, it is your responsibility to provide these. The music chosen need to appropriately respect the liturgical character of the celebration.

Marriage Preparation

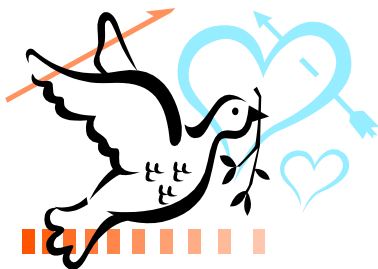
Our concern is that you have a happy marriage. We require, therefore, that couples do one of the marriage preparation courses that are available in Perth. Such courses have been shown by studies to have a significantly positive influence on the stability and durability of marriages.

Information is available from:

- **Catholic Marriage and Fertility Services**
33 Williamstown Rd, Doubleview. 6018
www.cmfs.org.au / 08 92415000

Marriage Act, 1961

In Australia, marriages must be performed according to the Marriage Act, 1961. This requires notification to be given to the Priest between 6 months and 1 month before the proposed wedding. A full birth certificate is required. If this is not available, other official documents may suffice. These matters are dealt with at a meeting with the Priest around 6 months before the wedding where you discuss the liturgy of the sacrament.



As you share this special and exciting time of preparation for your marriage, we pray that you will be guided by the Holy Spirit and look forward to welcoming you into our Parish family as a married couple.