

MARRIAGES AT ST JAMES': FURTHER INFORMATION

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

- Both the bride and groom must be 18 years old or more.
- The bride and groom must not be too closely related to each other.
- They must be free to marry, i.e. either never validly married before, or else divorced.
- There is a "Notice of Intended Marriage" form which must be completed at least one month prior to the proposed date of marriage.
- If a party is a divorced person or a widow or widower, evidence of that party's divorce, or of the death of that party's spouse, must be produced.
- Full birth certificates must be produced, or a current passport, and a driver's licence or:
 - a proof of age/photo card;
 - a Certificate of Australian Citizenship along with another form of photographic evidence (such as a student card or other photo identification not listed above).

CHURCH REQUIREMENTS

If either one of the couple is divorced, approval of the bishop is required. This is arranged by the priest presiding at the wedding.

Marriage preparation or counselling must be undertaken. St James' has professional marriage preparation counsellors for this purpose.

The Clergy of St James' officiate at all weddings and are assigned according to their availability on the date in question. Other Anglican priests and clergy of other denominations may assist at the service by, for example, reading from Scripture or leading prayers. This is arranged with the Parish Clergy.

MAKING ARRANGEMENTS

In consultation with the St James' Clergy, agree upon a date. There are no weddings at St James' during Holy Week. Saturday afternoon is the most popular time for weddings. Sunday mornings are never possible as these are times of regular worship. Sunday afternoons and weekdays are possible by arrangement.

MUSIC

St James' has a reputation for fine music in the Anglican choral tradition and this is an important part of the marriage service.

Music chosen should be in keeping with, and respectful to, the traditions of worship at St James' in consultation with the St James' Music Department and the Celebrant.

For copyright reasons recorded music is not used at St James'.

A chorister or [The Choir of St James'](#) may be engaged to sing.

BELL-RINGING

The [St James' Guild of Bell-Ringers](#) may be engaged to ring the bells.

The [Crypt](#) and courtyard may be hired for the post-wedding function.

The Order of Service booklet is produced by the Celebrant, in discussion with the couple. The service is in accordance with *A Prayer Book for Australia*.

THE DAY ITSELF

Please arrive in plenty of time. You will be far more relaxed if you have time to collect your thoughts before the ceremony begins.

Brides should arrive in time to have photographs taken well before the wedding is scheduled to start: if you arrive early by about 15 minutes, this will allow ten minutes for photographs, and five minutes to get ready for the bridal procession. By doing this you will be able to make a relaxed, confident entry into the church. Do bear in

mind that if you are late the Celebrant and/or organist may be unable to get to their next wedding/concert on time.

Please ask your photographer to consult with the celebrant on the day.

We would ask that no confetti, rice, or rose petals be thrown. These are very difficult to remove and can adhere to the church steps making accidents likely. Bubble blowers, regrettably, are not an acceptable alternative, as detergent residue can make the steps of the church a hazard when it rains.

Nevertheless, we hope you greatly enjoy your day!

MARRIAGE APPLICATION FORM AND ST JAMES' CONTACT INFORMATION

Please [click here](#) to download.

If you need more information about weddings at St James' please contact the Church Office: T (02) 8227 1300 or [click here \[IW1\]](#) to email.