



## **WEDDING INFORMATION**

Thank you for your enquiry about getting married at St Cuthbert's Church in Darlington, or St Michael and All Angels Church in Parkerville. Please read this information, then contact the Rector to make an appointment to discuss your wedding.

### **GENERAL**

#### **An Anglican Wedding**

Our churches are only consecrated for Anglican forms of worship and our clergy are only authorised by the government to marry people according to the rites of the Anglican church. There are ways to personalise your wedding, but please be aware that an Anglican marriage liturgy does not allow you to write your own vows and must include a reading from the Scriptures.

#### **Getting married somewhere else**

If you live within our parish boundaries please contact the Rector if you wish to be married in a venue other than our two church buildings. If your wedding will include a large number of guests, it is possible to negotiate to use a larger church building nearby. It is possible to conduct a wedding in a venue other than a church building, however due attention must be given to the appropriateness of the venue, and an alternative venue must be arranged in case of rain. Regardless of venue, an Anglican priest may only conduct an Anglican marriage service.

#### **Baptism and Other Christian Traditions**

We welcome enquiries from people of diverse Christian traditions and recognise the validity of any Christian baptism. Because of the nature of Christian marriage, the Anglican Church requires at least one member of the couple to have been baptised. Ideally, both partners will have been baptised. Couples sometimes seek baptism for themselves (and their children) before the wedding. Please discuss this with your priest if you are uncertain.

#### **Remarriage after Divorce**

The Anglican Church allows divorced people to remarry. When confident that the issues which led to a divorce have been addressed, the priest will seek the permission of the Archbishop for the wedding. This extra layer of accountability is designed to protect both partners from repeating any errors of the past. Please be assured that you will be treated with respect and sensitivity.

## **Who will conduct the wedding?**

If you live within the parish boundaries, the Rector of Darlington-Bellevue will generally officiate at your wedding. You may also request to be married by another priest who has permission to officiate in the Diocese of Perth. If you live outside our parish boundaries you will be asked to contact your local Anglican priest to ask them to prepare you for marriage and conduct the service.

## **Living Together**

We know that many couples share a household prior to marriage. Please feel comfortable discussing this with your priest.

## **Capacity**

Both St Cuthbert's Church and St Michael and All Angels Church can accommodate approximately 70 people seated and up to 30 people standing. If you expect large numbers of children, they can be seated on the floor to make more room for adults.

## **BEFORE THE WEDDING**

### **Marriage Preparation Program**

All couples preparing for marriage must undergo a marriage preparation program. Most priests use *Prepare-Enrich*. This program requires the couple to complete an online questionnaire then spend at least two sessions discussing the results. You can find out more information at [www.prepare-enrich.com.au](http://www.prepare-enrich.com.au).

The cost for the program is **\$150**, to be paid before commencing the course. For those being prepared by the Rector, payment may be made:

- by cheque to *Rector of Darlington-Bellevue*
- by funds transfer to: *Rector's Discretionary Account*, BSB: 706 001, Account No.: 3000 4327
- by cash in a marked envelope

If the *Prepare-Enrich* program identifies serious issues which need resolution before you get married, you will be referred to appropriate professional assistance.

### **Prayer**

In the weeks preceding your wedding, our Worshipping Community will be praying for you. Your names and the date of your wedding will be placed in our newsletter *The Mustard Seed*.

### **Sunday Worship Participation**

We encourage you to attend Sunday worship at St Cuthbert's or your local Anglican church before and after your wedding. Each Sunday at St Cuthbert's there is a Eucharist (also called Mass or Holy Communion) at 9.00am. There is a children's program every Sunday of the year, except during January.

## **Financial Contribution**

There is no fee to be married in an Anglican Church. We do welcome donations to assist our mission. It may help you to know that our annual operating costs exceed \$120,000. We generally suggest a donation of **\$300** for a wedding.

A one-off donation can be made by:

- Cheque to *Anglican Parish of Darlington-Bellevue*
- Funds transfer to: *Anglican Parish of Darlington-Bellevue*, BSB: 706 001  
Account: 3000 3649

## **Gift for Priest**

It is appropriate to give a gift to the priest. It is traditional to make a contribution to the priest's discretionary account, which is used to purchase ministry resources and assist people in hardship. You can make this gift by:

- by cheque to *Rector of Darlington-Bellevue*
- by funds transfer to: *Rector's Discretionary Account*, BSB: 706 001, Account No.: 3000 4327
- by cash in a marked envelope

## **Reception**

The priest who conducts your wedding will welcome an invitation to the reception, but will not expect it.

## **Documentation**

In order to be legally married, you will need to provide

- Your birth certificate, if you were born in Australia
- Your birth certificate OR passport if you were born overseas
- The *decree nisi* from any previous marriages

## **THE WEDDING DAY**

### **Flowers and Decorations**

You are asked to arrange your own flowers for the wedding and to leave them in the church for the following Sunday. Decorations may be tied to the pews with ribbon, provided they are removed after the wedding. In the rare event that there are two weddings in one day, you will be asked to liaise with the other couple about sharing or changing flowers.

### **Music**

St Cuthbert's Church houses a good-quality electronic organ. St Michael and All Angels Church houses a pump-operated reed organ. Our parish organist can play for your wedding, or you can make your own arrangements. The cost for the parish organist is **\$150**.

We have a good quality sound system that can play recorded music via an MP3 player. Music for a wedding should be appropriate for a service of Christian worship. Some couples value the singing of a hymn at the wedding if the majority of guests feel confident singing. Please discuss these details with your priest.

## **Ushers**

You will need to appoint at least one usher for the wedding. This person should arrive at the church at least thirty minutes before the wedding and liaise with the priest about seating and parking.

## **Cleaning**

Cleaning of the church is the responsibility of the parish. Please ensure that your ushers remove any leftover items from the church upon departure.

## **Orders of Service**

A printed order of service is not necessary for a wedding, however some couples like to produce one as a souvenir. You must liaise with the priest regarding the content of the Order of Service.

## **Confetti**

The use of confetti is not allowed. Bubble packs and rose petals are allowed.

## **Holy Communion**

Some couples will value celebrating Holy Communion as part of their wedding. This is not compulsory and is generally advisable only if the majority of guests are regular communicants.

## **Furniture**

Furniture may not be moved without the permission of the Rector.

## **Photography**

Photographers should be aware that St Cuthbert's Church in particular has limited natural light. Most photographers are aware of appropriate behaviour at a wedding. Appropriate behaviour includes:

- Introducing him or herself to the priest before the wedding and discussing mutual expectations
- Behaving in a discreet and respectful fashion
- Limiting the use of flash and noise

## **CONTACT**

Once you have read this document, please contact:

**The Reverend Chris Bedding (Father Chris)**

**08 9299 7274**

**rector.darlington@live.com.au**