

St. Patrick's Parish, Gosford

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INFORMATION FOR COUPLES INTENDING TO MARRY

Please read carefully

PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE

We at St. Patrick's are pleased to be sharing your joy at your forthcoming marriage, and deem it a privilege to be able to celebrate this sacrament for you.

No doubt you will want your marriage to be the best it can possibly be. We also want that for you. Couples will understand, therefore, the need to prepare well for marriage. In a society that often does not support marriage, and even at times threatens it, the necessity for good marriage preparation cannot be stressed too highly.

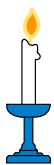
For this reason you are asked to participate in a marriage education programme, in addition to the appointments you will have with your Celebrant. To determine which course would suit you best you may contact CatholicCare direct on 4356 2600, or SmartLoving Engaged on the Central Coast, contact 0411 301 198, for details of their marriage education courses. Alternatively you are welcome to do an internet search for any other registered Catholic Marriage Education course which may suit you better. A copy of the certificate you are given at the end of the course will be kept on file at St Patrick's.

We at St. Patrick's consider this programme to be an essential part of your marriage preparation. We therefore expect that couples would be only too happy to participate in one of them. You will surely appreciate the rich rewards to be gained in setting aside this precious time just for yourselves.

Documents Required

You will be required to produce the following documents at the first appointment:

- a) A birth certificate [full or extract] or, in certain situations, a passport.
- b) A certificate of Baptism. Catholics are asked to procure a recent [no more than 6 months old] Baptism Certificate from their parish of Baptism, though an original or copy will suffice for baptism in other denominations. No certificate is required if baptism took place at St Patrick's Parish, Gosford.



MIXED FAITH MARRIAGES

Where a Catholic wishes to marry a person of another faith, or someone who is unbaptised, there is no requirement by the Catholic Church for either Baptism or change of religion. Some people may wish to do this, but it is a matter that can be discussed personally with the Priest.

Prior to the wedding, the Catholic party signs a declaration to nurture his or her faith, and to promise to do all in his or her power to share that faith with their children by having them baptised and brought up in the Catholic Church. The couple will have the opportunity to discuss this with the Priest in an open and honest manner.

THE CEREMONY

Details of the marriage ceremony will be discussed with you by the Priest. The basic structure of the ceremony is determined by the rites of the Catholic Church but there are several parts of the ceremony where you will need to choose from the suggested alternatives. Do not hesitate to make known your wishes so that the ceremony can be planned with you. You may also wish to arrange a short rehearsal a few days before the wedding, but this is not essential. Any rehearsal should include as many participants as possible, including your readers.

MUSIC



Music will complement and enhance your marriage ceremony. You are free to make your own arrangements for music and/or musicians/recordings but your choices should be suited to the sacred nature of the place and the wedding ceremony. Classical music would always be considered appropriate. The following musicians from our parish would be pleased to assist at your ceremony. Please contact them to make a booking and to discuss arrangements.

ORGANISTS:	Christine Malone	4324 5389
VOCALISTS:	Amanda Dillon	0400 489 648
	Iolanda Merillo	4373 1251 [0422 683 464]

FLOWERS

Ladies of the parish attend to the altar every week, including flower arrangements. Please ask our Parish Secretary to put you in touch with the appropriate group to either arrange your flowers or let them know you are making your own arrangements. The Altar Society ladies charge \$20 for the use of the silk flowers, if that is your choice, and would also request the greenery be supplied.



POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS

This facility is now available at St Patrick's Parish should you wish to use it to enhance your wedding service. Please feel free to discuss this your priest at the interview and if you decide to avail yourself of this facility, contact Tom Croll on 0411 962 122

PHOTOGRAPHY

Reasonable photography that is not intrusive is permitted. Videos are permitted but without floodlights or lights on stands.

FEES

The following are the fees for weddings in our church:

- ▶ **Administration Fee: \$75.**
This fee covers all the associated paperwork including preparation of government documents.
- ▶ **Church Fee: \$300.**
This is used entirely for the upkeep and maintenance of the church and grounds.
Note: This fee is waived for those who are members of our envelope Planned Giving programme and contribute regularly.
- ▶ **Stole Fee:**
This fee is your contribution to the priest who celebrates your wedding, and it is payable at either the rehearsal or on the wedding day.
As a guideline, \$250 [or \$300 if the priest is to travel outside of the local district] is considered a suitable fee for the time the priest dedicates to preparing a couple for, and celebrating the wedding. If this causes any concern though, please telephone the Parish Office to discuss the matter with Father.
It is worth noting that a civil celebrant receives in excess of \$450 for performing a wedding.
- ▶ **Payment of a Deposit**
Payment of the deposit of \$350 [being the Administration & Church fees] confirms your booking of the church. It is fully refundable should for some reason the wedding not proceed, and is payable at the time of booking.

PLEASE ARRIVE ON TIME

Please be courteous and arrive promptly. Saturday is an extremely busy day in the parish with the weekend liturgies and other parish ceremonies, and there may be another wedding following yours.

CONSIDERATION FOR OTHERS

We also ask for the members of your family, or your friends, to take all your belongings [including wedding booklets] from the Church.

PLEASE "DO THE RIGHT THING", DON'T throw confetti or rice. It may help to add to your invitation: "NO CONFETTI OR RICE, by request"

Our St Patrick's wedding team & parish
wish you a blessed time of preparation for your marriage ceremony.