

PRE-MARRIAGE COURSE:

Are your pre-marriage courses required?

We strongly encourage you to do a pre-marriage course. It doesn't take very long, compared to the time often invested in planning a wedding, and is a valuable investment in your marriage.

THE SERVICE:

What Wedding Service do you use?

We run a classic wedding according to the Prayer Book of the Anglican Church of Australia. Please contact us for a copy of the service.

Does the church print the Order of Service for us?

No, you need to create and have them printed yourself. You have freedom to be creative, but please send through the final draft before printing. Please contact us for a template to work from.

How long does the ceremony go for?

Approximately 40 minutes, however it is best to allow a full hour.

Can we get married any day of the week?

We are happy to marry couples on any day, except Sundays. On Sundays, the buildings are being used all day for church services.

Does the bride need to be on time?

Yes, absolutely. Anything more than 10 minutes late and you risk your organist and bellringers leaving before the ceremony is over. They often have other commitments, including other weddings.

Am I allowed to have a Page Boy or Flower Girl?

Yes. But if you are planning on having a Page Boy or Flower Girl under the age of three, please indicate your desire to the minister as soon as possible.

I live overseas, can I still fill out a Notice of Intent to Marry?

For couples living overseas a copy of the 'Notice of Intent to Marry' may be downloaded [here](#) (From the Attorney General's Department.)

THE BUILDINGS:

How many seats do the churches have?

Both churches fit 150 easily, 200 comfortably, 300 at a squeeze.

When can our florist/friends/musicians access the church?

The church is opened one hour prior to your ceremony and is kept open for half an hour after the ceremony.

How many pews are there if I want to decorate the pew ends?

Many brides choose to decorate only every second row, or just the first 10 rows of pews. At St Philip's, there are 20 to the cross aisle, and 27 rows all the way to the back of the church. At The Garrison, there are 16 rows of pews to the back of the church.

Is there parking available?

At St Philip's, there is a wedding bay on Clarence Street reserved for your wedding cars. There are also 4 parking spaces at the North side of the church. We can't guarantee any of these for your use, but contact the office if you would like 1 or 2 for disabled or elderly guests. This map shows nearby parking stations, which may be helpful for your guests.

At the Garrison, your driver will know to park in front of the doors of the church. There is usually adequate street parking around the Garrison. There are also 8 parking spaces at the church. We can't guarantee any of these for your use, but contact the office if you would like some for disabled or elderly guests, or the photographer.

Can our guests throw petals/confetti/rice, or have petals scattered down the aisle of the church?

No. We request that your guests do not throw confetti or rice, either on church property or on the street. This is a safety and littering issue and we appreciate your co-operation. Genuine flower petals can be thrown outside the church as they are biodegradable and will not harm the birds. If you would like scatter flower petals down the aisle of the church this, this is only permitted at St Philip's and will incur an extra \$75 fee for cleaning.

Can we serve afternoon tea/refreshments after our ceremony?

If you would like to serve refreshments outside after the ceremony, there is no wet weather option. We ask that you bring everything with you (table cloths, food, drinks, crockery etc.) and take it all with you at the end, including the rubbish. We can set up a few tables outside the church for you however we just do not have the resources to offer anything more. You will need people who are willing to set up, serve and pack up for you. Extra fees and strict conditions apply, and the extra time is subject to availability. Please discuss with the Weddings Administrator at the time of enquiry.

What are the rules regarding decorating the church?

All decorations must be agreed to by the minister and you must arrange to have them removed after the ceremony. The Church must be left as it was found.

Is flash photography allowed and is it ok to video the ceremony?

Yes, but please ask your photographer to be respectful during the wedding, keeping in mind it is a Christian Service. Videographers will need to supply their own microphone, which the minister is happy to wear.

Will there be other wedding ceremonies held on the date of our wedding?

At times we do need to schedule more than one wedding per day, especially in busy seasons. If there is more than one ceremony on your wedding day, to ensure everything runs smoothly, we schedule 1 free hour each side of a wedding.

MUSIC:

What is the best way to do music for our wedding?

We recommend the use of the Organ – it's simple to organise, our organist is accomplished at playing for weddings, and it sounds beautiful in the space.

What parts of the service need music?

Music will be needed for these five moments: 1. As your guests arrive; 2. For the Processional (the bridal party walking into the church); 3. For a hymn (optional); 4. For the signing of the register; 5. For the Recessional – the bridal party walking out of the church.

Can you help us choose music?

Here are some tips on selecting wedding music, as well as some suggestions on suitable pieces of music for various parts of the service.

Can we sing a Hymn?

If you want to, but it is not required. We recommend solid, easy to sing, well known hymns, sung with the organ. We also recommend asking a friend or family member to lead the singing for you.

Are we allowed to use an iPod for music?

Yes. But song choice will need to be approved by the minister. Please appoint one of your wedding guests to 'press play' on the day. This person should also come to the wedding rehearsal the week prior to your wedding to learn how to use the system.

Can we have a soloist?

Yes, at the approval of your minister. If you want a rehearsal for our soloist with the organist, there will be an extra charge for the organist's time. To avoid this cost, we suggest that the soloist practise when the organist arrives 30 minutes before the wedding. Please let our administrator know prior to your wedding.

Can we have a band with contemporary songs?

Yes. If you wish to have a contemporary band, we will need to appoint a Sound Operator, who is trained in using all our sound gear. The extra fee for this is \$300. Microphones, DI-boxes and most leads can be supplied by us, along with monitors for musicians, music stands and microphone stands. You will need to provide all instruments (except if you are choosing to use the grand piano). You must indicate at least 3 months out from your wedding if you intend to bring in a band for your wedding.

Can you give us some tips for choosing music?

Your organist will usually play some quiet background music before the ceremony starts. The Processional is usually a quieter piece of music than the recessional, which is usually more triumphant. Signing of the register pieces are usually quieter and reflective. Once you have chosen music and had it approved, make sure you let any hired musicians know with at least two weeks to practice.

READINGS:

Can we have readings from poems, plays, or novels during the ceremony?

Your wedding is a Christian ceremony, therefore all readings need to be taken from the Bible. We suggest you try to include any other readings at your wedding reception.

Do we choose Bible Readers?

You will choose two Bible readings, and two readers. Suggested passages are provided to couples once they have booked their wedding in. Contact us for some tips for Bible readers.

FLOWERS:

What does the cost of flowers include?

The \$300 cost for flowers includes 2 large arrangements on pedestals and 2 smaller arrangements on the table at the front of the church. They are arranged by a professional florist. Flowers are usually white, unless specific colour scheme requests are made, which we can sometimes accommodate. Flowers cannot be removed to your home or reception venue. If you would like to take flowers away after the service, we recommend that you arrange for your own florist.

THE MINISTER:

Do we need to pay the minister or give him a gift?

No, you do not. The minister performs wedding ceremonies as part of his duties. There is no remuneration involved. If you bring your own minister (after approval is given) you should discuss this with them.

Do we need to invite the minister to the reception?

No, you do not. The minister doesn't expect to be invited to the wedding reception.

Can we bring our own minister?

Only if your minister is ordained in the Anglican Church, and only after permission is granted by the Rector, Rev. Justin Moffatt.

BELLS AT ST PHILIP'S

How do the bells work?

There are eight bells at St Philip's, rung by eight bellringers. The bells add a sense of excitement and grandeur to the occasion.

The bells start ringing 30 minutes before the appointed time, as your guests arrive. There is a pause in ringing for about 10 minutes before the bride arrives, making it essential that the bride is on time. As the bride gets out of the car the bells ring out, announcing that the bride has arrived. The bells ring for several minutes as the bride prepares to enter the church.

After the service, the bells ring again as guests are greeted and photos taken. The bells continue, usually, until the bride and groom drive away, or for approximately 30 minutes.