



SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PARISH

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PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY - INFORMATION AND CHECKLIST

Thank you for choosing Sacred Heart Parish for the celebration of your upcoming Marriage. Your wedding day will be a significant moment in your lives and begin a new vocation in life, that of a married couple. By choosing a Catholic church for your wedding, you are also choosing to enter into a sacramental marriage through the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. At least one of the parties to the marriage must be a Catholic, who is baptised, made his/her First Holy Communion and received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Here are some things you need to know and to organise.

HOW MUCH PREPARATION TIME IS NEEDED?

It is good to begin the focused and directed preparation six months out from the date of the wedding day. This provides you with the time needed to enter into the preparation fully and without haste or rush.

WHAT IS NEEDED IN THE PREPARATION TIME?

You will do a Catholic online marriage preparation course called Smart Loving Engaged. You can enrol at <https://smartloving.org/engaged/> This course has 9 sessions which can be done at your own pace. It is enjoyable and couples always find it helpful.

Then you will meet with the priest for 3 sessions.

During these sessions you will be guided by the priest in the spiritual preparation needed to enter into the vocation of marriage. You will also learn about the theology of marriage as Christ has taught us.

As well, the priest will help you to complete all the documentation required by the Church and Federal Government to comply with legislation and other legal requirements.

Catholic priests are registered marriage celebrants under the Marriage Act and so are able to help you comply with all that is needed to register your marriage civilly. In addition, details of your marriage will also be kept at the parish where the wedding occurred. This complies with Canon Law, the law of the Catholic Church.

There will also be 1 session where the priest helps you to prepare the sacred liturgy for your marriage ceremony. A rehearsal is usually preferred and this happens a few days before the wedding.

WHAT CAN THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY LOOK LIKE?

It is possible to have a Nuptial Mass during which the marriage ceremony takes place. This is the option when both parties to the marriage are Catholic. If one party is not Catholic a Wedding Liturgy is preferred.

WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO ORGANISE?

You have to bring with you to the meetings with the priest the following:

- Birth certificates
- Baptism certificates - this is required for Catholics as well as all baptised Christians
- Drivers licence, passport or other proof of identity
- First Holy Communion and Confirmation certificates - this is required of all Catholics; not for other Christians.
- The order of service booklet for the marriage ceremony, if you choose to use one
- Two witnesses to the marriage - they must be over 18 and be present at the ceremony

IS THERE A DONATION TO THE PARISH?

Yes, we ask for a donation to the parish, which covers a donation to the priest and helps the parish to cover ongoing costs. You may offer more if you wish, but we ask for a minimum \$400.