

Information
for couples
intending to marry
at Oakleigh Parishes
- Sacred Heart, Oakleigh, and
Christ Our Holy Redeemer, East Oakleigh
2018



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Christ Our Holy Redeemer Church address

43 Ferntree Gully Road,
East Oakleigh, Vic., 3166

Car park entry

through Huntingdale Rd, East, Oakleigh

Sacred Heart Church address

76 Warrigal Road,
Oakleigh, Vic., 3166

Car park entry

through Johnson St., Oakleigh

Thank you for your enquiry about getting married at Sacred Heart Parish, Oakleigh or Christ Our Holy Redeemer, East Oakleigh (Oakleigh Parishes). Like you we also take your wedding day seriously! Why? Because we believe that marriage is a life-long commitment of love and honour for each other commitment. Therefore, both the Church and the Federal Government emphasize the need for marriage preparation.

As you know the “marriage” of two baptised people is one of the seven sacraments of the church. Sacraments are “of the church” because they are by and for the church, communicating the mystery of our God who is love (c.f. Catechism of the Catholic Church - CCC 1118).

Through the sacraments we are sanctified and help to build up the Body of Christ as well as give worship to God. Marriage is part of God’s plan. God, in love, has created us male or female for a purpose. The partnership of the couple therefore bears a responsibility in answer to this gift that, by its nature, enhances the dignity of the person as well as the dignity of the sacrament which the couple minister to each other. “The vocation to marriage is written in the very nature of man and woman as they came from the hand of the Creator. Marriage is not a purely human institution, despite ... different cultures, social structures, and spiritual attitudes” (CCC 1603).

Yes, we take your request seriously because we know the two of you come to request marriage in a church because you love each other and want to seal that love in the presence of God and the Church. In your capacity to love and trust, you undoubtedly express a tenderness and companionship toward each other and to give mutual support. What a great decision the two of you have made! It is in reply to this that the rest of the church joins with you in the joy and happiness of this great day. So, therefore, it is crucial that couples intending to marry in the church prepare themselves not just materially but emotionally and indeed, spiritually.

Mixed Marriages: The Catholic Church does not require a non-Catholic who wishes to marry a Catholic change religion. Some wish to do this, and this is a matter that can be discussed privately with the priest/deacon celebrant (“celebrant”). In order that the non-Catholic partner understands the Church’s requirements, the Catholic partner should make an undertaking in writing to persevere in his/her own faith and to bring up any children in the Catholic faith. The priest/deacon will include some basic information about the Catholic faith as part of your marriage preparation.

As a couple you must be aware of certain requirements that we are all bound by because of Government and Church requirements. These are as follows:

- To be married one must be 18 years of age or older.
- Baptismal certificates (not older than 6 months) must be produced.
- Birth certificates must be produced. If you are unable to obtain a birth certificate a passport (Australian or foreign), driver’s licence, or proof of age card (all must be current) will suffice.
- Two witnesses (18 years or older) are required for the marriage.
- If you come from outside the parish you must obtain a “Permission to Marry” form from your Parish Priest.
- Documents relating to your freedom to marry (e.g. divorce and annulment of any previous marriages, if applicable).
- Official documents need to be completed between one and eighteen months before the marriage.
- To have completed a recognized prenuptial program.
- To meet the celebrant a few times before the marriage itself, normally after having completed the prenuptial program.

As a parish, very much interested in your future, we ask you to be aware and to abide by the following:

- there be a minimum three months notice for a marriage.
- the times for marriages are on Saturdays either at 1:00pm or 2:00pm.
- that you attend a prenuptial program - the celebrant will discuss this with you (best to complete this at least 4 months before the marriage).
- That a booking fee of \$700 (plus \$150 bond – totaling \$850) is to be made at the parish office no later than 8 weeks before the wedding. This will be for the use of the church and a donation for the celebrant’s services (of the parish). If you are bringing a priest from outside the parish there is a booking fee of \$400 plus your personal donation to the visiting priest/deacon (which may include travelling costs and discussed with him).

Also please remember that the celebrant may have other appointments or commitments, and the church may be booked after your wedding for another function. It is an expectation that the wedding will start within ten minutes of the booked time, otherwise

It may not be possible for a priest/deacon of this parish to be available if both parties are from outside the parish. The officiating celebrant in the period of preparation will give you some basic instructions on the nature of Christian/Catholic marriage, as well as how and why you may choose to have the wedding in or out of Mass.

During these sessions, you will have an opportunity to talk about putting the ceremony and a booklet together (if you so wish, and prepared by the couple). In choosing music for your wedding please keep in mind that this is a religious function in a church. Religious music in the church can certainly enhance the occasion. Please remember that if you are putting lyrics into your commemorative wedding booklet you may be in breach of copyright. Please inform the celebrant if you are doing so. Also:

- You may organise for a rehearsal some days prior to the wedding itself. Usually all those involved in the marriage will be required to be there.
- If you need a list of musicians (organists, etc.) the parish knows and uses the following musicians:
 - Mrs Dawn Demonte (9544 9471)
 - Mrs Andrea O’Loughlin (0404 051 401)
 - Mrs Theja Tissera (9512 7421)
 - Or you may book someone else.
- Organising flowers and flower arrangements is to be finalised by you. Mrs Aida Geraldini arranges flowers in the church weekly and has done many flower arrangements. If you wish to discuss this matter, eg., arrangements and cost, with her she may be contacted on 9569 9704. If there are two weddings on the same day you may organise to share the cost of the flowers between the two marrying couples.
- Seat decorations may be secured only with ties. No tape, wire, staples, pins, etc., are to be used on church pews as they damage the woodwork or polish.

Many ask about a “marriage licence”. In Australia no such licence exists. Documents need to be completed before the marriage, as stated earlier. After the marriage you will be provided with a marriage certificate. Please note that this certificate is not recognised as a legal document. The officiating marriage celebrant is the one to send in all the necessary documentation to the Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

Please keep in mind that there is to be no confetti, rice, petals or any other objects thrown in or around the church. These objects make a real mess, takes a long time to clean up and can cause accidents. If the church is left clean the \$150 bond will be returned to you within a fortnight after the wedding.

We wish you both a showering of God’s blessings upon you. We like you to know that a wedding is for the day, and we want to make that day a special day indeed; but marriage is for a lifetime. In the sacrament of marriage you enter into a Christ-centred relationship where your whole being, as male and female, is incorporated. We wish you all the very best in the preparation for your wedding and much more in your marriage together.