

Holy Rosary Parish

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Weddings

Marriage is one of the church's seven sacraments, a special moment of grace for all the people involved: especially for you, the engaged couple, but also for your families, and your friends. The church takes every marriage very seriously.

In the ceremony, you will be committing yourself to a life-long, fruitful, and loving relationship with each other. The parish would like to do all it can to make the ceremony as personal and meaningful, and your married life together as viable as possible.

Notice time for a marriage should, ideally, be between 6 to 9 months before the ceremony. There are a number of state and church forms and papers to prepare. These should be completed well before the big day. The early notice means that the preparation can be approached gently, reflectively and without any undue haste.

Sooner rather than later, make an appointment to see the priest who will officiate at your marriage. Priests from outside of the parish are welcome to officiate at marriages at Holy Rosary. Bring a copy of your birth certificate, and/or passport to the meeting, as well as a recent copy of your baptism certificate. These should be readily available from the parish where you were baptised. If applicable, please also bring details of any previous marriage, as well as any documentation related to change of name.

One of the matters you will have to decide on is whether the wedding will take place within Mass, or within the marriage ceremony. If one of you is not a Catholic, or many non-Catholics will attend the wedding, sensitivity may suggest that the marriage ceremony is the more appropriate. A Nuptial Mass is especially fitting for the marriage between two Catholics. This is something the priest will discuss with you.

The marriage between a Catholic and non-Catholic involves applying for a variety of dispensations. Again, the priest will discuss both the process and content of these with you.

There would normally be 3 marriage preparation sessions with the priest who will conduct the wedding ceremony.

The archdiocese of Perth requires all couples to do one of the courses it provides to prepare for their marriage. Details about these will be given to you when you first meet the priest. These courses are helpful because they bring together a group of couples who are preparing for marriage. Supportive friendships, which may last long into marriage, often flow from these marriage preparation courses.

Issues which these courses raise and couples should consider and have discussed before marriage include the role of each other's families, the in-laws, financial management, the unfolding of friendships outside of the relationship, conflict resolution, the expression of feelings within the relationship, anger management, role expectations, time management, family planning, the education and religious up-bringing of the children, the religious expression between the couple and in the home, etc . . . the list is almost endless.

The usual place of marriage for a Catholic is the catholic church or chapel in the parish of one of the parties. The usual form is the Catholic rite, or ceremony.

The couple arranges the music, the flowers, and the order of ceremony – the booklet – associated with their wedding. Usually, the priest celebrant provides guidelines for the couple to prepare their service booklet. It is very advisable to have the priest "vet" wedding arrangements before they are acted upon.

In recent times, "soap bubbles" have replaced confetti, rose petals and rice after weddings: these latter are very difficult to clean up. It is also customary to photograph and/or video the marriage ceremony: there is no problem with this, but it should be done discreetly.

Weekend times for marriages at Holy Rosary are on Saturday (11.30 am, 2.00 pm, and 3.30 pm), and on Sunday (2.00 pm and 3.30 pm).

At time of writing, the fee for booking Holy Rosary church for a wedding is a \$400 deposit. The deposit can be paid by an EFT payment to:

BSB : 086006
Account # : 667172492
Account Name : Holy Rosary Parish Church Account

Please advise the parish by email or fax that the EFT payment has been made. The booking is confirmed on receipt of this deposit. This deposit is not refundable.

Donations are made to the musicians. It is also customary to give the officiating priest a donation for his services.