

*Getting Married*

*St Mary's  
Heritage Church*

*Christ Church*

*Gosford, NSW*

# CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations on your decision to be married.

We hope that the time leading up to your wedding day will be an exciting and happy one. We know it will also be busy so we are ready and willing to help in any way we can to make your wedding day extra special.

Gosford is a great location to get married. We offer two magnificent buildings for your big day: St Mary's Heritage Church and Christ Church. We are also open to performing your marriage at a place of your choosing.

This booklet will hopefully introduce you to some of what we have to offer. Of course you will find out a lot more by making a time to drop by and speak with one of us.

We look forward to meeting with you and talking further about your wedding plans.

Fr Rod, Rev'd Val, Fr Michael  
Ministry Team  
Anglican Parish of Gosford.



# *The Process*

The process of booking a wedding at either of our Churches is quite easy:

1. Read this booklet through – if you have any questions, feel free to give us a call, or send us an email.
2. Ring our Parish Office and make a time to come and check out any of our Churches, if you haven't already done so.
3. Book a day and time for your wedding day.
4. Meet with one of our team at least two months in advance to go through the legal requirements.
5. At least one month in advance ensure that all legal requirements have been met, and put together final planning touches for the service.
6. A few days prior to your wedding you will need to undertake a rehearsal.



# *St Mary's Heritage Church*

Historic St Mary's Church is by far the most popular of our Churches.

It was originally built in 1858 in East Gosford. In 1905 it was moved stone by stone to Gosford. You can still see some of the markings in the stone that helped re-assemble the building.

St Mary's is being restored to its former glory. Restoration has enabled reverse cycle air-conditioning and new stained glass windows to be added to this beautiful space.

St Mary's can seat up to 100 people comfortably on seats with white covers. It has a red carpet for you to walk down the aisle upon. The sanctuary contains a simple altar table, candles and flowers.

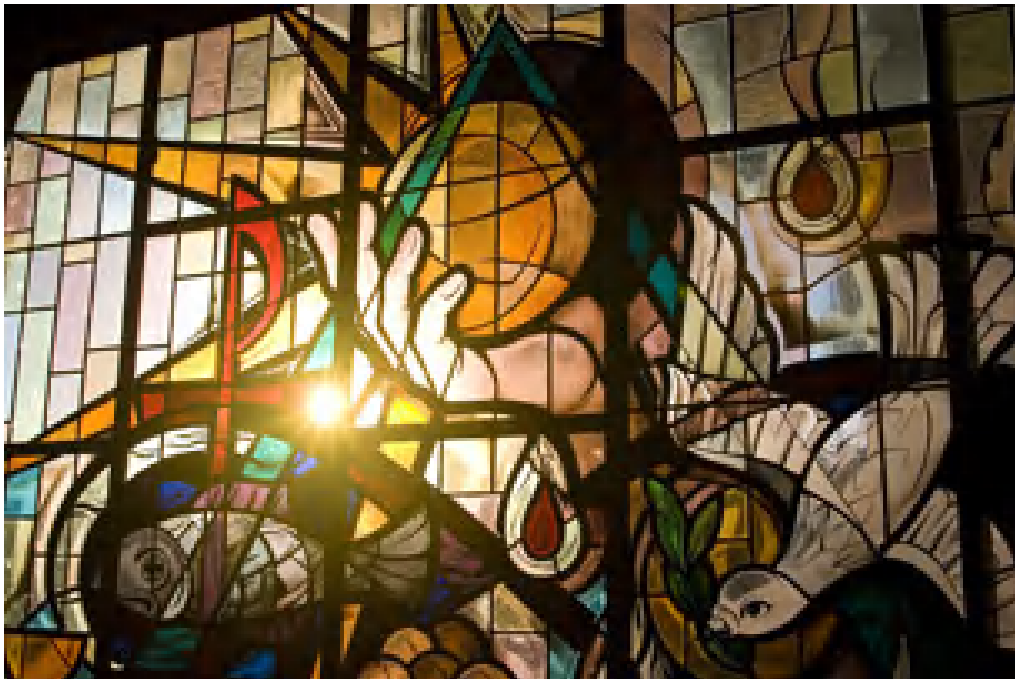
St Mary's also has space on the lawns at the front of the Church for marquees to be set up for drinks and nibbles after your special event. It is a lovely space with views through large Morton Bay Fig Trees to Brisbane Waters.



# *Christ Church*

Built in the 1950's and opened in 1961 this large Church replaced the small wooden building which was originally located on the site.

This circular Church, with a long aisle, is able to seat up to 250 people comfortably. It has large spaces, timber pews and stained glass. It also has a range of technology such as data projectors that you may wish to use on your special day.



## *Your Special Place*

Of course we are also open to performing your marriage at the place of your choosing. We look forward to discussing your ideas. If outdoors, we advise that you should also have a suitable indoor location booked as a back up.

# *Practicalities*

## **Fees**

St Mary's Heritage Church entails a fee of \$950.00 in total. This includes all the legal requirements, the marriage celebrant, full use of the building, white chair covers and standard flowers. Christ Church and St John's point Clare entail a fee of \$550.00 in total. This includes all the legal requirements, the marriage celebrant, full use of the building, and standard flowers. Services conducted by a marriage celebrant outside of these buildings will entail a fee of \$550.00.

Payment must be made in full prior to the wedding rehearsal. Cheques should be made payable to "The Anglican Parish of Gosford", however cash makes the distribution of the monies easier.

## **Flowers**

The cost of providing two simple silk arrangements of flowers is included in the wedding fee. You may add other flowers and decorations, but please consult with the marriage celebrant as there could be other weddings on the day.

## **Ushers**

It will be helpful to your guests if you arrange to have two ushers available 20 minutes before the commencement of your wedding service.

## **Be on Time**

Being on time is essential. Other events take place in St Mary's and so each wedding has an allotted time. The bridegrooms party will need to arrive 25 minutes before your scheduled time, and the Bridal party will arrive five minutes before. Lateness may cause your wedding to be postponed to later in the day.

## **Music**

A selection of pre-recorded music may be played, provided copyright laws are observed. We also welcome your arranging musicians to play and have accommodated a variety of instruments and styles in the past. We suggest that you will require at least three pieces of music:

1. The entrance of the brides party;
2. The signing of the register (at least 4 minutes long);
3. Something to leave by.

Each person will have their own taste and style. We are happy to consult with you open your needs.

## **Photographs**

Your photographer is welcome in St Mary's and Christ Church. If you have not already organised a photographer we can give you some names of professionals who we have found to be helpful.

## **Video**

Professional or armature video is welcome, however video operators require a special "Single – Event video license from AMCOS – Australasian Mechanical Copyright Owners Society, before a wedding can be videotaped. A license application form is available from the Church office. Please make your family and friends aware of these copyright laws; refusal to allow videoing on the day can cause confusion and embarrassment.

## **Something to throw?**

Traditionally confetti, rose petals or rice has been thrown over brides and grooms to celebrate the event. Unfortunately these make a huge mess and have environmental consequences. We would suggest that bubbles would be a preferable alternative to these. You may like to provide some for your guests.

## **Service Sheets**

We are happy to help you to prepare an order of service if you require one. We also have the ability to prepare and print these in full colour. Please drop by the office and see the variety of styles we have to offer. Costs apply.

## **Change of Address**

Please let us know if you change your address or phone number after you have made a booking. If we cannot contact you we will assume you are no longer intending to marry and your booking will lapse.

## **Address for Invitations**

St Mary's Heritage Church or Christ Church  
Anglican Parish of Gosford  
3 Mann Street  
Gosford NSW 2250

## **Readings**

You may care to choose a suitable reading from the list below for use in your wedding service. Other readings or poems may also be appropriate and may be negotiated with the marriage celebrant. We use the New Revised Standard Version of the bible.

Genesis:	Chapter 1, verse 26 to Chapter 2, verse 4a.
Psalms:	128; 37 (verses 3 to 7); 67; 23; 100; 121; 138.
Ephesians:	Chapter 3, verses 14 to end.
1 John:	Chapter 3, verses 18 to 24.
1 John:	Chapter 4, verses 7 to 16.
1 Corinthians:	Chapter 12, verse 31 to Chapter 13, verse 13
St. Mathew:	Chapter 7, verses 21 to 29.
St. John:	Chapter 2, verses 1 to 11.
St. John:	Chapter 15, verses 9 to 17.

Go to <http://bible.oremus.org/> to see these verses.

# *Legal Speak*

Marriage is celebrated within the framework of the Commonwealth Marriage Act, which is a Federal Law governing all marriages celebrated within Australia and its Territories. Failure to comply with all the provisions of the Marriage Act involves heavy penalties, invalidation of the marriage, and possible gaol terms.

At least month prior to the date you will need to meet with the priest who is conducting your wedding and begin the legal requirements for marriage. The following areas are applicable, and you need to be aware of them:

## **Minimum Age**

Under the law of the Commonwealth of Australia, the marriage of any person under 18 years of age without the order of a judge or magistrate is invalid. If you are under 18 years of age marriage is still attainable, however, will require greater notice so that permission may be sought.

## **Birth Certificates**

An original Birth Certificate must be shown to the marriage celebrant at least one month prior to the marriage. If you do not have your birth certificate one may be obtained by contacting the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. This does have a cost associated with it, and will require an extended period of time.

## **Evidence of Death**

A Death Certificate must be produced before the Marriage of a person whose previous union terminated in the death of the partner.

## **Divorce**

The Marriage Celebrant must be shown the Decree stating the date of the termination of the previous marriage. Information concerning the date of the first union and the number of children (together with dates of birth) must also be supplied to the Celebrant.

## **Compulsion**

It is an offence under the act for any person to be married under duress, compulsion, or in any other way against his/her own free will.

## **Sobriety**

It is an offence under the Act for any marriage to be solemnised if one or both of the Parties to the union appear under the influence of, or affected by, alcohol or drugs.

## **Witnesses**

You must have two witnesses to the Marriage, who sign the Registers. Both witnesses must be over the age of 18 years.

The Celebrant will register your Marriage with the Registrar Generals Department in Sydney.

## **Legal Documentation**

A number of Legal Documents must be signed as part of the Marriage Contract.

### **1. Notification of Intended Marriage**

This form must be signed and witnessed no later than one full month before the date of the Marriage. In all normal circumstances, this should be completed three months prior to the wedding.

## 2. Declarations

Statutory Declarations as to legal fitness of the couple to be married must be signed before the Marriage and be witnessed by the celebrant of the marriage.

## 3. Marriage Certificates

Two Marriage Certificates are signed on the day of the Marriage. One Certificate is sent to the Registrar General, the other is handed to the parties of the Marriage.

All the official documentation is arranged by the celebrant of the marriage for your convenience.



# *Your Wedding Service*

As part of the Anglican Church of Australia our service follows the pattern of worship outlined in A Prayer Book for Australia. The following is an outline of that service.

## **Entrance**

*A suitable song is played to welcome the bridal party.*

## **Opening Sentences**

*Some opening sentences from the bible are read, such as:*

God is love, and those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. (1 John 4.16).

## **Statement of Intention**

*The priest outlines to all present the basis of marriage – love.*

We have come together in the presence of God to witness the marriage of *N* and *NN*, and to ask God's blessing on them as we share their joy . . .

## **The Reading/s**

A reading from the bible, and maybe some other appropriate poem or reading is read.

## **The Wedding**

*N*, will you give yourself to *NN*, to be her husband, to live with her according to God's word? Will you love her, comfort her, honour and protect her, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her so long as you both shall live? *I will.*

*The partner responds in reciprocal.*

Families and friends, you are witnesses to these vows. Will you do everything in your power to uphold *N* and *NN* in their marriage? We will.

I, N, in the presence of God, take you, NN, to be my wife: to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, so long as we both shall live. All this I vow and promise.

*The partner responds in reciprocal.*

*The rings are blessed.*

I give you this ring as a symbol of our marriage. With all that I am and all that I have I honour you; in the name of God. Amen

I receive this ring as a symbol of your love and faithfulness to the end of our days. May God enable us to grow in love together.

*The partner responds in reciprocal.*

*Hands are joined and wrapped with the priests stole.*

Before God and in the presence of us all, N and NN have joined hands and made their solemn vows, promising life-long faithfulness to each other. In the name of God, I declare them to be husband and wife. What God has joined together, let no one separate.

*A blessing is said upon the couple.*

*The couple are pronounced married and invited to kiss one another.*

*The Register is Signed. During which an appropriate song is played.*

### **The Prayers**

*Prayers are said for the couple and for their future.*

### **The Blessing**

*A final blessing is given and the congregation stand to welcome the new couple.*

# *Contact Us*

## **Office**

9:00am to 3:00pm  
Monday to Friday

3 Mann Street  
Gosford NSW 2250  
02 43232312

## **Web**

[www.anggos.com](http://www.anggos.com)

## **Email**

[anggos@bigpond.net.au](mailto:anggos@bigpond.net.au)

## **After Hours**

Fr Rod Bower - 0419 016453

*We look forward to meeting with you  
and helping to create a special day  
which will be a blessing upon your continuing journey.*

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