

**Gisborne Anglican Parish**  
Diocese of Melbourne – Anglican Church of Australia

**Marriage information sheet.**

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**Parish Priest:**

Fr Dennis Webster –5428 4038 [O]

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***Welcome....***

*We welcome the possibility of celebrating your marriage here at St Paul's Gisborne, The Church of the Resurrection Macedon or St John's Riddells Creek and look forward to helping make your wedding day beautiful and significant – a strong foundation for your future life together.*

*Once you have carefully read the information below and would like to explore further the possibility of being married here, please contact the Parish Office and request an appointment to see Fr Dennis Webster, the Parish Priest. During this meeting Fr Dennis will explain what the church offers in terms of marriage and the various options that are available for your ceremony.*

*At the time of making this appointment to see Fr Dennis, a tentative booking can also be made for your wedding so that you can secure a date and time. We allow one and a half hours between wedding ceremonies.*

*If you have any other questions or need further assistance please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Office..*

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### **Who can be married in an Anglican Church?**

All are welcome to explore being married in the Anglican way. It is important that couples seeking marriage here understand that what we offer is not just a beautiful sacred space for their wedding ceremony but also a way to be married. That way is Christian and in the Anglican tradition. In coming to the Christian Church for marriage, it is understood that couples seek to have their commitment to one another made before God and with God's blessing. It is after all a religious ceremony.

Under the changes in Federal Law to the Marriage Act 1961, the Church rules regarding same-gender marriage apply. What this means is that the Anglican Church in Australia does NOT permit any licensed clergy to undertake such a wedding. We are not sure if this may change in the future. The Parish of Gisborne is an inclusive parish, but is bound by Federal Law in this matter.

### **Who can marry us at Church?**

An Anglican priest must be the officiant at your wedding if the wedding is to be conducted in a building belonging to the Anglican Church.

Unfortunately, the Parish is not permitted to hire the Church to other a civil celebrant or another church tradition or denomination. If you know an Anglican priest and would like them to be the officiant then this is possible. You can explore this possibility with the priest concerned either prior to or at the initial interview.

### **What about preparation?**

The Anglican Church not only seeks to help couples plan and celebrate their wedding but importantly also assist in the preparation for 'marriage'. Therefore all couples married in an Anglican are required to undertake some marriage preparation. There are options available including a weekend course undertaken in Melbourne, or with a suitably qualified marriage preparation counselor using PREPARE. The Parish clergy are all qualified to administer PREPARE.

### **What will it cost?**

A full wedding with everything provided by the Parish is \$935. This includes provision of the organist, flowers, marriage education, and administration. This now includes arranging a copy of your official marriage certificate from Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDM) at the Department of Justice. As the fees are at the discretion of the officiating priest, this should be viewed as a maximum figure. If cost is an issue, please let us know.

**A non-refundable booking fee of \$150.00 is required to confirm your arrangements.**

### **I'm divorced. Does that matter?**

The Church requires the parish priest to follow strict guidelines for the marrying of divorced persons. Permission from the Regional Bishop is required, and the officiating priest is charged with preparing the matter for discernment. If either the Bishop or Priest has a concern, this will be explored with you personally.

### **What official documents must we produce?**

Full birth certificates (not extracts) are required for both parties, together with evidence of divorce or death if appropriate. A current photograph ID is also required: usually a motor vehicle license will suffice. If you are born overseas a current valid passport is acceptable.

### **Photographs in church?**

We want you to have a good photographic record of your marriage, but we also want everyone to be really present during the ceremony, rather than experience it afterwards as a media event! Photographers (professional and amateur) are very welcome but must observe parish guidelines which will be provided to you to pass on to your photographer. The photographer must be discrete in their work and not hinder or becoming obtrusive during the service.

### **Music**

An organist / pianist will be provided for your ceremony. Due to copyright laws it usually not possible to have an entire ceremony of recorded music unless permission is given. However a combination of live music and some recorded music is permissible. We will make every effort to assist in your preferences for music within the ceremony.

**Flowers and other Decorations?**

Flowers, ribbons, bows or other decorations on pew ends are permitted. If you decide you want pew decoration, they need to slip on and off easily, and must be placed and removed immediately before and after the wedding.

Flower arrangements for the Church can either be arranged by the couple through a professional florist, or to have seasonal flowers according to the Church's year. A contribution of \$100 is suggested for the Parish to provide flowers.

**Confetti?**

Confetti in any form – paper, rose petals, rice (boiled or not) – is not permitted under any circumstances in or around the church precincts.

**Rehearsal**

A full rehearsal – but not a dress rehearsal – for everyone in your wedding party is usually held in the week prior to your marriage at a time convenient to you and the presiding priest. At this rehearsal, the bride and groom are required to sign a Statuary Declaration (at least one day prior to the ceremony). This declaration states that there is no impediment to the ceremony going ahead.