

# ***SACRED HEART GRIFFITH***

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## **WEDDINGS AT SACRED HEART CHURCH**

We welcome your enquiry about getting married at Sacred Heart Church.

To assist you in planning this incredibly special and important day, the following information is provided.



## **BOOKING YOUR WEDDING**

The booking should be made at least six months before the wedding to confirm availability of the preferred date and time, and to allow ample time for meeting with the priest to complete the necessary paperwork and make the appropriate arrangements for your wedding. A \$100.00 booking fee is required to secure the date and time. The parish does not charge a set fee for weddings; however, an offering of \$300 is requested to cover the various expenses incurred in maintaining the Church and registering a marriage with the Australian Government. Likewise, a celebrant fee of \$200.00 is payable through the Parish Office. The booking arrangements should be finalised one month prior to the wedding.

## **CELEBRANT**

A couple may choose a celebrant from the clergy of Sacred Heart Parish. Otherwise, the Parish Priest will assign a celebrant for the wedding. The couple could also invite a celebrant from outside our parish, with prior permission from the parish priest.

## DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

Evidence of date and place of birth, as well as photo identification, must be provided to comply with Australian law. Providing a passport/birth certificate, and a driver's licence will satisfy this requirement.

A Baptismal Certificate needs to be obtained and provided by those who have been baptised. The Baptism Certificate for Catholics must be fresh, that is, issued in the last six months, if you were baptised outside of Sacred Heart Parish.

Please, bring these documents to the Parish Secretary within one month of the booking to ensure that all necessary documents are sighted for the registration of "Intention to Marry"



### MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

A thorough and comprehensive marriage preparation must be undertaken to enable the couple to make a fully informed and freely given mutual consent. During these meetings, all the required civil and church paperwork and plans for the wedding liturgy should be finalised. Formation on the nature, duties and responsibilities of Christian marriage is an integral part of preparing couples for marriage.

In the Diocese of Wagga Wagga:

- It is expected that the couple attend a number of meetings to complete the necessary marriage preparation.
- This may include a series of guided classes using a foundational textbook such as *Marriage Matters* by Fr Peter Murphy.
- It may also involve completing a self-guided online course such as *Smart Loving* or *Beloved*.
- The celebrant may suggest that the couple attend an extra meeting with a suitable practising married couple or doctor to discuss natural family planning and other similar issues.
- To satisfy the state requirement for the celebrant to meet each person separately, another meeting might be organised with each person individually. It is appropriate for a bride to bring a companion, other than her fiancé, to this meeting.
- You are invited to talk with your priest about the possibility of support after your wedding, possibly via a form of 'marriage catechumenate'.

The **FOCCUS Marriage Course** is available locally. Please contact Kay Scobie on 02 6964 1217. The **SMART LOVING** online course brochure is included in this package. The “**Marriage Matters**” book is available in the Parish Office for \$10.

This marriage course should be completed at least three months before the wedding. Upon completing the course, please contact the Parish Office to arrange a meeting with the priest who will be celebrating your wedding to begin the sacramental preparations.

### **CHURCH FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS**



These are the responsibility of the couple, unless you are happy to use the simple, nonprofessional, weekend parish flowers.

If you arrange your own flowers, it is customary to leave some of them in the church afterwards, but it is not necessary. Parish pew bows are available for your use. Please do not throw confetti, rice, or rose petals on the church grounds.

### **PREPARING THE CEREMONY**



A church wedding is a liturgical celebration, part of the public worship of the Church. It has a structure that must be observed. The priest will guide you in selecting the music and scripture readings for your wedding.

Spiritual preparation for marriage is essential and can be achieved through means such as prayer and a commitment to attending weekly Sunday Mass. In the case of cohabitation, it is spiritually beneficial for the couple to endeavour to try living separately during the marriage preparation. Catholics are encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and the Sacrament of Reconciliation before their wedding. All of this allows sacramental grace to bear as much spiritual fruit and support as possible.

## **WEDDING CEREMONY**

A wedding is a liturgical action of a festive nature, and care should be taken to maintain the joyful sacredness of the sacrament. A Catholic marriage ceremony may be either within Mass or outside of Mass, and this decision should be made at the discretion of the celebrant and couple. The liturgical structure of the marriage rite must be observed, and the couple will be guided in the selection of appropriate prayers and scripture readings. Cultural customs will be accommodated wherever possible.

## **MUSIC**



All music chosen for weddings must be appropriate for liturgical worship. This means it needs to be of a religious nature and reflect the sacredness of marriage, especially within the context of Mass. Secular or popular music with lyrics should not be used. But it may be possible for both classical and more contemporary instrumental music that is not contrary to Christian sentiments to be used. Engaging musicians (rather than recorded music) is preferred. A list of approved music choices is attached to this letter.



## **PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOS**

Please remember that these should be done in a dignified and respectful manner, without being intrusive. Please inform your photographer to consult the priest before the ceremony.

## **BOOKLETS**

If you wish to prepare a wedding booklet for your guests, the priest can provide you with all the necessary information to compile it.

The parish of Sacred Heart looks forward to being a part of your wedding. Please keep this letter in a safe and readily accessible place. We shall keep you in our prayers and ask God's blessings upon you as you embark upon the journey of life together as husband and wife.

May God bless you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry Ibe", written over a horizontal line.

Fr. Henry Ibe

**Parish Priest**