

Holy Rosary Parish Community

46 Thomas Street, Nedlands, WA

☎ (08) 9386 1870

nedlands@perthcatholic.org.au :: www.holyrosarynedlands.org.au

Marriage and Wedding Ceremonies

Marriage, one of the church's seven sacraments, is a special moment of grace for all the people involved: especially for the engaged couple, but also for families and friends. The Church takes every marriage very seriously. The parish community wants to do all it can to make the wedding ceremony as personal and meaningful, and married life together a happy and a blessed time.

A Wedding Application form (downloaded from the website) should be lodged at the office, ideally at least six to nine months before the chosen date. It is dangerous to book a "reception centre" before checking whether the church (and a celebrant) is available on your chosen date. You arrange to meet with the proposed celebrant to complete the legal requirements and for spiritual and catechetical preparation. There are a number of government and church forms and papers to prepare. These should be completed as soon as possible. The early notice means that the preparation can be approached gently, reflectively and without any undue haste.

The couple make an appointment to see the celebrant who will officiate at their marriage. (Celebrants from outside the parish are welcome to officiate at marriages at Holy Rosary.) Bring either a copy of your birth certificate or your passport to the meeting, as well as a copy of your baptism certificate, recently dated, which is 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.

You will decide if the wedding is include a Nuptial Mass, or not. A Nuptial Mass is especially fitting for the marriage between two Catholics. If one of you is not a Catholic, or many non-Catholics will attend the wedding, sensitivity suggests that a marriage ceremony only may be more appropriate. This is something the celebrant will discuss with you.

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

The archdiocese of Perth requires all couples to do one of the courses offered to prepare for marriage. Details about these are available on the Archdiocesan website, or may be given to you when you first meet the celebrant. 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 discuss before marriage include the role of each other's families, 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 usual place of marriage for a Catholic is the Catholic church or chapel in the parish of one of the parties. Special permission is required for another place. The form is the "according to the rites of the Catholic Church."

In consultation with the celebrant, the couple makes arrangements for music and flowers; they work together on the order of the ceremony, including the service booklet - if this is to be printed. The celebrant provides guidelines in all these matters.

Sprinkling of confetti, rice, or rose petals etc is prohibited. Soap bubbles are acceptable. Weekend times for marriages at Holy Rosary are:-

Saturday mornings: any time; Saturday afternoons: to finish by 5pm; Sunday afternoons: to finish by 5pm.

The booking fee is \$500.00 payable by those who are not registered members of the parish community. It can be paid by cheque to Holy Rosary Parish, or by EFT payment to:

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

Please advise the parish by email or phone that the EFT payment has been made. The booking is confirmed on receipt of this deposit. This deposit is refundable up to 3 months before the proposed date.

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