

# Marriage...

...two people becoming one

...a choice for love and a  
choice to love

...the reflection of divine love -  
creative, self-giving and  
faithful

“God is love” Gospel of John



**St Michael's Anglican Church**  
**North Carlton**  
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## Getting Married?

**St Michael's Anglican Church**  
**North Carlton**

## Marriage Preparation

St. Michael's Church values relationships and commitments highly. It is vital that those seeking to be married should receive good pre-marriage education and on-going encouragement. It is also important for couples to understand what it means to ask for marriage in a Christian tradition.



**The most important partnership in life**

The goal of our preparation program is to give you the best possible start to a life-long partnership. Christian teaching about marriage gives

encouragement and practical help to form a solid foundation for the future.

To help couples in this way we recommend that you take the steps outlined in this brochure in consultation with the minister who will be your celebrant. A **minimum of six months preparation** time is required if you are to be married at St. Michael's. This period of time will enable you to take the best steps possible to prepare well for your wedding.

It is expected that those seeking marriage in a church will consider an on-going relationship with the Christian community in the parish of choice, or in another parish. It is recommended that couples attend church services in the time leading to the wedding day.

Fees for weddings will be explained by the minister at the time of your first meeting to talk about holding your wedding at St. Michael's.

You can contact a minister at St. Michael's on 93806387.

## Steps For Marriage Preparation

*Consists of 3 parts...*

### 1. "Prepare" course

Couples must attend "Prepare" sessions at a recommended counselling agency. This involves a separate fee of around \$200 per couple and is paid directly to the provider. "Prepare" is used throughout Australia by a variety of agencies for pre-marriage education. It involves two to three sessions with a trained consultant. The sessions will help identify your strengths as a couple and highlight areas you may need to do some work on in the years to come. Keriva Counselling Centre is an agency at St. Hilary's Anglican Church Kew and is highly recommended. They can be contacted on 98167170. Once you've completed this course you would then move to step 2.

### 2. Three 1.5 hour meetings with the celebrant

The minister who will be your wedding celebrant will meet with you to discuss 3 features of your wedding: a) a Christian understanding of marriage; b) Practical relationship skills; & c) preparing the ceremony. These would normally take place at the minister's residence or office at times mutually convenient.

### 3. The Wedding Rehearsal

Usually held in the week prior to the wedding the rehearsal is



**Good preparation is vital**

an important time for your bridal party and helpers to attend too. The wedding ceremony is practiced in all its detail and some documents must also be signed. Everything will then be in readiness for the big day!

## Other important matters

- St. Michael's is an Anglican Church and will use only an authorized Anglican Marriage Service and marriage vows as the basis of your wedding ceremony
- An information sheet regarding music at your wedding ceremony can be obtained from the marriage celebrant
- It is expected that the couple will prepare, publish and copy for distribution a suitable service leaflet for guests at the wedding ceremony. The celebrant will provide past examples and practical advice to assist couples in this task
- Where at least one partner has been married before, we require that the couple undertake a marriage course especially suited to those who are re-marrying. In some cases the marriage preparation period for such couples will need to be longer than 6 months.
- Fees for weddings vary according to requirements for music, flowers, etc., and are negotiated with the celebrant during the first meeting. Most weddings at St. Michael's cost between \$200- \$350 (in addition to "Prepare" course fees)
- Date and time of wedding shall be negotiated with the celebrant



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