

**GETTING MARRIED**

**AT**

**HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN  
CHURCH**

**LAUNCESTON**

**OR**

**ST. MATTHIAS WINDERMERE**

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Sincere congratulations on your decision to be married. We know this will be a happy and busy time for you. Be assured of the church's prayers for you as you make your preparations. We hope your wedding will be a joyful and holy occasion.

As well as involving the physical, sexual and emotional union of a man and a woman, in a Christian marriage there is also a *spiritual union* involved, and a complete *commitment* of your selves to each other for life. As part of your preparation, we invite you to join us regularly at worship. This helps us to know you better, fosters the good feeling that you are being married in *your* church and gives you the real opportunity of involving God in your life and in your marriage. You are most welcome at any of the Sunday Services.

Holy Trinity or St Matthias will provide a beautiful setting for a very important occasion in your life. But remember it will be a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. It will be "holy" because of your love for each other, and because of the holiness of God's love for you both.

The decisions, promises and commitment you will make will be binding upon you for life and, in coming to the church for marriage, you are asking God to be part of your marriage - not just for a day, but for its entirety. The Church of God therefore feels a continuing care and responsibility for you. If at any time you need advice or counsel, do not hesitate to come to us for whatever help you need.

God bless you both as you make your preparations for your marriage.

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## **WHAT THE CHURCH REQUIRES**

### **1. BAPTISM**

Marriage is a Christian Sacrament - one of the 'gifts' God gives to members of his church. Both parties to the marriage ought to be baptized, but at least one of the parties must be baptized, although not necessarily in an Anglican Church.

If you are not baptized, and would like to be, suitable instruction in the faith can be arranged. See the priest about this in good time as considerable preparation is needed for such a significant decision.

### **2. ARE YOU CONFIRMED?**

When both parties to the marriage are *Confirmed* it may be fitting that your marriage should include the celebration of Holy Communion. The priest is happy to celebrate a Nuptial Eucharist for you.

### **3. SUITABLE PREPARATION**

The church is most concerned that you make your promises with complete understanding of the deep commitment Christian marriage involves. Feel free to ask questions about this during your interview or at any other time. We hope that you will *prepare spiritually* by worship and prayer, for the blessing and guidance of God the Holy Spirit on your union.

### **4. WE WILL PRAY FOR YOU**

At our Sunday Worship, we will be praying for you as you make your preparation. The week before your marriage, you will be remembered by name.

### **5. INVITATIONS AND PRESS NOTICES**

Do not have your invitations printed until you have confirmed the date and time of the ceremony with the priest.

We ask you to use the correct name for the church which is:

**Holy Trinity Anglican Church Launceston or  
St. Matthias Anglican Church Windermere**

Please note that the name of the church is 'Anglican'. Please don't use the title 'Church of England'. This information also applies to pre-wedding announcements in local newspapers.

### **6. CHANGE OF DATE OR TIME**

If for any reason, you find it necessary to alter the time or change the date, or even to postpone the wedding, please observe the courtesy of informing the priest immediately, so that suitable arrangements may be made. Because of other commitments, we cannot guarantee that your alternative date or time will be available.

### **WHICH CHURCH**

St. Matthias at Windermere holds only about sixty people. If you are having more than this number, Holy Trinity Launceston is more suitable.

## **WHAT THE GOVERNMENT REQUIRES**

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 can involve penalties, invalidation of the marriage, and possible gaol terms.

## **A. MINIMUM AGES**

The minimum age for females and males is 18 years.

## **B. CONSENT**

A special certificate of permission must be obtained where

- a) either or both parties are under age,
- b) where parents' consent cannot be obtained.

Your celebrant will assist you in this matter.

## **C. BIRTH CERTIFICATES**

An original Birth Certificate must be shown to the celebrant of the marriage. A Passport, Driver's Licence, Service Identity Card or *photocopy* of Birth Certificate is not acceptable.

## **D. EVIDENCE OF DEATH**

A Death Certificate (or Funeral Director's official Receipt) must be produced before the marriage of a person whose previous union terminated in the death of the other partner.

## **E. DIVORCE**

Your celebrant is required to get approval for the remarriage of a divorced person. The decree stating the date of the decrees nisi and absolute must be shown to the celebrant. Other confidential information will be required.

## **F. COMPULSION**

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

## **G. SOBRIETY**

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

## **H. LEGAL DOCUMENTATION**

A number of legal documents must be signed as part of the marriage contract:

### **i) Notification of Intended Marriage**

This form must be signed and witnessed **NO LATER THAN ONE FULL MONTH** before the date of the marriage and less than one year prior.

### **ii) Declarations**

Statutory Declarations as to the legal fitness of the couple to be married must be signed before the marriage and be witnessed by the celebrant of the marriage. This is normally done at the wedding rehearsal.

### **iii) Consent Forms**

Where necessary, because one of the parties is under 18, Consent Forms must be signed, witnessed and handed to the celebrant before the marriage.

### **iv) Marriage Certificates**

Three Marriage Certificates are signed on the day of the marriage. One certificate is sent to the Registrar General, another is handed to the parties of the marriage and the third is retained at the church. All the official and legal documentation is arranged by the celebrant of the marriage for your convenience.

## **I. WITNESSES**

You must have two witnesses to the marriage ceremony, who sign the Certificates. Both witnesses must be aged 18 or older. Normally this role is performed by the chief bridesmaid and the best man but you may choose others to be your witnesses instead.

## **PREPARING FOR YOUR WEDDING AND FOR YOUR MARRIAGE**

**Marriage is a life-long union** in which a man and woman are called so to give themselves in body, mind and spirit, and so to respond, that from their union will grow a deepening knowledge and love of each other. In the joys and sorrows of life, in prosperity and adversity, they share their companionship, faithfulness and strength.

The priest who celebrates the marriage will normally require that the couple see him/her on **at least three occasions** prior to the wedding.

We appreciate your **punctuality** at interviews, or the **earliest advice** possible if you are unable to be present at an arranged time.

Given the number of hours you will spend preparing for your wedding, it makes sense to spend a few hours preparing for your marriage! As part of the preparation for your marriage you will be required to participate in a Marriage Preparation. In some circumstances other preparation courses may be suggested. Marriage preparation is aimed at assisting you to improve your communication, increase your trust and build up your relationship strengths. There are costs for these programs which must be paid direct. Almost every couple who has participated found these programs very valuable and enjoyable.

## **THE CEREMONY**

### **PUTTING TOGETHER YOUR SERVICE**

Your celebrant will provide you with a booklet outlining the options in the service of Holy Matrimony. Some parts of the service are required by government legislation and some parts are required by church law, but there are many parts of the service such as hymns, readings and prayers where you can choose what is appropriate for you.

### **MUSIC**

Holy Trinity has a long tradition of excellent music and we provide both organist and choir, to make your wedding a significant occasion. The organ, an old and very beautiful pipe organ, may normally be played only by our church organists. The singing of solos and the playing of solo instruments other than the organ *is* permitted subject to your celebrant ensuring suitability for its use in church. Please discuss this with your celebrant but keep in mind that a wedding in a church is a public service of worship and the music needs to be suited to this setting. Because of the laws regarding public performances, recorded music is not normally permitted. You are invited to discuss it with our Organist Peter Schultz on 63345009 or for St. Matthias Edie Williams on 6326 2486.

## SUITABLE HYMNS

One or more hymns (up to three) may be sung at the ceremony. Some suitable hymns from *Together In Song* (with numbers from *The Australian Hymn Book* shown in brackets) are:

398	Come down O love divine	(310)
137	For the beauty of the earth	(77)
678	God beyond glory	
581	Happy the home that welcomes you	(495)
580	Lead us heavenly Father	(492)
217	Love divine, all loves excelling	(148)
156	Morning has broken	(91)
106	Now thank we all our God	(14)
603	O perfect love	(526)
627	Praise and thanksgiving	(569)
134	Praise my soul	(68)
698	When the light of new creation	

Other favourites may be included. Please discuss this with your celebrant or our organist. .

## COPYRIGHT

Strict laws now enforce the Copyright Act. Words of hymns and sections of the Marriage Service may not be produced without proper authority. Please carefully check with the celebrant before arranging any printing etc. Most couples prepare a 'handout' with details of the service etc. for your guests. Please consult with your celebrant well in advance on what should be included. We usually suggest you fax or email a draft well before printing, and your celebrant will check it over.

## READINGS

In the wedding ceremony there is a place for at least one reading from the Bible. You may care to choose a suitable reading from the list:

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. Matthew	Chapter 5, verses 1 to 12
St. Matthew	Chapter 7, verses 21 to 29
St. John's Gospel	Chapter 2, verses 1 to 11
St. John's Gospel	Chapter 15, verses 9 to 17

Suitable poems or prose readings may be used other than from a biblical source after consultation with your celebrant but, if so, a reading from the Bible must also be included. A guest may do the reading if you wish.

## PRAYERS

Prayers for your marriage are offered as part of the service. The booklet provided by your celebrant includes a variety of options and you are invited to discuss these with the celebrant.

## **FLOWERS**

The church will have flowers and you do not need to arrange anything yourselves. Additional decorations, for example bows at the end of pews, will be placed in the church prior to your service, or you can arrange to place your own decorations at the wedding rehearsal. It is suggested that you call our Flower Coordinator, Dorothy Potter on 6340 1953 at Holy Trinity or at St. Matthias, Edie Williams on 6326 2486.

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**

Most professional photographers know that they should not interfere or intrude into the service. Flash photography other than on entry and exit is discouraged. No strong lights may be used by video operators. Please discuss your plans with your celebrant.

## **FEES**

The arrangements for the celebration of your marriage involve the time of many people. A non-refundable deposit of \$100 is required when you first arrange the wedding and the balance of the fees must be paid *at least two weeks prior* to your marriage. The easiest way is to call at the church office at Holy Trinity on a Friday, 10 am to 4 pm.

The set fee which is inclusive of church, flowers, administration, organist, choir, verger, and celebrant is \$770.

For everyone's convenience, please provide the exact amount or pay by cheque.

## **A PRAYER FOR THOSE PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE**

*Be near to us, and to all who are preparing for marriage.  
May we grow together in love and understanding  
sustained by God's vision of a relationship which endures forever.*

*May our marriage be a source of great and lasting joy.*

*May your blessing be upon us in our home  
and in all the work and preparation we are doing together  
that our marriage will be built upon strong foundations  
of love for God as well as for each other;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## NOTES

*Next interview on:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Time:* \_\_\_\_\_

*At:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Wedding rehearsal on:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Time:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Wedding on:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Time:* \_\_\_\_\_