

Getting Married in the Kedron Catholic Parish

First of all, congratulations! The entire Kedron Catholic Parish wants to share with you the excitement as you plan and look forward to your wedding day and your future together.

As you probably know, the Catholic Church sees marriage as one of the seven Sacraments, which is why we treat every marriage with the utmost respect and reverence. The Church sees your marriage and love for each other as a reflection of what God's love for us must be like. The following guidelines are designed to help you ensure that your marriage ceremony truly reflects that love.

To meet the basic requirements to be legally married in the Catholic Church you must be able to answer "yes" to the following questions.

- ✓ **I am 18 years of age or older**
- ✓ **I am legally able to get married under the laws of the Australian Government. (i.e. you are not presently married)**
- ✓ **I am legally able to get married under the laws of the Catholic Church (i.e. you have never been married before or, if you have, then you have been through the Church annulment process and have received an annulment of your previous marriage from the Church)**
- ✓ **You are both prepared to complete a marriage preparation course before you get married.**

If you cannot answer "yes" to all of the above (4) questions, then we cannot take a booking for your wedding right at this time, but we encourage you to contact our Parish Priest, Fr Mario Debattista ofm on 0429 600 711 to discuss and clarify your situation with him. For other questions, you are welcome to contact our Parish manager Sandra Di Francesco on 3357 6640.

To complete the documentation needed for your wedding, you will need to provide a copy of:

- ✓ **Your birth certificate**
- ✓ **A Transcript of your Baptismal Certificate obtained from the church of your baptism dated within the last 6 months (at least one party to be married must be a baptized Catholic).**
- ✓ **Any other relevant documentation (i.e. copies of annulments, divorce decree etc.)**
- ✓ **A certificate indicating the completion of your marriage preparation programme (after you have completed it).**



Because of the number of couples who choose to get married at the Little Flower and our common desire to celebrate your wedding with dignity and to maintain the highest possible standard, we have an inclusive wedding fee of \$900.00.

This includes:

- ✓ **Priest fee**
- ✓ **Church fee**
- ✓ **Church Flowers**
- ✓ **Order of Service (booklet)**

When the booking is made you will be required to make a deposit of \$500.00.

BSB: 064 786 Account Number: 100024812
Account Name: Little Flower Church Reference: Family Surname and date of Wedding.

Final payment for your wedding must be made no later than two months prior to your wedding date.

After you have made your booking for your wedding, please contact **Fr Mario Debattista ofm (our Parish Priest) on 0429 600 711** to make an appointment to meet with him. He will explain the process of preparing for your wedding day and let you know about your first meeting with him and what documents to

bring along.

Weddings in our parish can be celebrated during the week, Saturday, or Sunday afternoon. However, you should note that weddings will not be celebrated on the following dates:

- **Sundays during Lent.**
- **Holy Week (the week leading up to the Easter Weekend)**
- **Easter Weekend (which includes Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter Sunday and Easter Monday)**

As you are probably aware, the most popular day to be married is Saturday. For wedding times other than Saturday please contact the parish office.



For the Catholic Church, your marriage is a sacred religious ceremony celebrating God's love for you and your love for each other. Unfortunately, in our very secular and commercial society, many people think that they have to have a lot of "extras" which are not part of the marriage ceremony. When you think about it, often these "extras" are just expensive distractions to what is the central element, publicly declaring your love and commitment before your God, the Church and your family and friends. We will do our utmost to ensure that your wedding is a true reflection of your love and is celebrated with dignity, uniqueness and reverence.



Perhaps to allay some of your concerns it is appropriate now to answer some of the frequently asked questions:

Is the wedding ceremony complicated?

In choosing to get married in the Kedron Parish, you are freely choosing to celebrate the Roman Catholic Rite of Marriage. There is an inherent beauty and simplicity to the structure of the rite. It is never the case of imitating the latest craze or celebrity wedding! Care is always needed to ensure that the Readings chosen are from Scripture and the music is appropriate to the Rite.



How do I go about organizing the wedding ceremony?

Included in this package is an example of a wedding booklet and a resource that provides suggested scriptural texts and prayers. Our parish priest will work with you and take you step by step through what is required. Once you have decided and provided all the relevant information, your booklet will be printed and ready for your guests on your wedding day. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the parish office.



What about music?

Amidst the excitement of arranging a wedding, the thought of dealing with wedding music can be a bit frightening and daunting, especially if church music is not your strength. Don't worry! Our parish office will help guide you and, in conjunction with the organist, help you decide on appropriate music for your wedding. Of course a lot of modern love songs are appropriate for weddings, but they belong at the reception, not in the religious ceremony.



Are Photographers/video recorders allowed inside the church?

Yes, we do allow photographers inside the church but they must be professional in their approach, unobtrusive, and, above all, conscious that you are celebrating a religious ceremony. Your family, friends and guests have come to celebrate with you your marriage and not a media event. At no time is a photographer permitted on the sanctuary (altar area) of the church.



Can we use confetti, rice, bubbles etc?

No. Please inform your guests that the use of confetti, rice, rose petals, bubbles, or similar substances is not permitted in our church or in the surrounding precinct. Likewise, butterflies are not to be released.



Can I afford to be a little late?

No, most weekends there are several weddings or other ceremonies booked in our churches and these will commence on time. Also, on these days our priests normally have other commitments which cannot be changed or pushed back. We cannot be responsible for the consequences if you are late. From our experience, we would suggest that the bridal party arrives no later than 10 minutes before the due start of your wedding ceremony, which will allow time for the photographer to take the required photos.



Can we have a drink before we start?

No, alcohol is not allowed on the church grounds and anyone who is found in possession of alcohol will be asked to leave the church premises.



Do I have to do marriage preparation?

Yes, every couple who intends to be married in the Catholic Church must complete some form of marriage preparation. The marriage courses offered do not predict whether your marriage will be a success or not. What they do is give you some important time in the hectic months before your wedding to pause and reflect upon some of the big issues that concern you, your partner and your future together. It is a chance to discover your relationship strengths and areas needing work- our experience is that couples are glad that they have spent this time together.

These marriage preparation courses are very popular and you are encouraged to book early this has the added advantage of giving you more time to concentrate on other details as your wedding day draws near.

For courses provided by Centacare, Brisbane, please visit their website for alternatives on offer:

<https://centacarebrisbane.net.au/marriage-and-relationship/pre-marriage-education/>

One can choose between a Group Course:

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?embed&eid=655788>

Or there is the more personalised FOCCUS Program:

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?embed&eid=677454>



What's the next step?

After reading through these guidelines the next step is to complete the booking form, send it to our Parish Office, then call to make an appointment to see our Parish Priest. You will need to make contact with him (or the priest officiating at your wedding if you have another priest) so as to complete your Government and Church paperwork.



Finally!

The journey leading up to your wedding day should be some of the best days of your life and we will do everything to ensure that they are. The prayers, best wishes and resources of the entire Kedron Catholic Parish are at your disposal now and throughout your married life. If there is anything I can do personally to assist don't hesitate to get in contact with me.

God bless,

Fr. Mario Debattista ofm
Parish Priest

Little Flower, Kedron Parish Wedding Booking Form

Has either party been married before in any way at all? No Yes

If yes, have you obtained the required Church Declaration of "Freedom to Marry"? No Yes

Type of Ceremony: Nuptial Mass Wedding Ceremony

Name of Priest/Deacon to officiate at wedding:

Fr Mario Debattista ofm

Visiting Priest/Deacon _____ Contact Tel: _____

Day: _____	Date: _____	Time: _____
	Bridegroom	Bride
Surname:	_____	_____
Given names:	_____	_____

Residential Address:	_____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____
Telephone:	Home _____ Work _____ Mobile _____	Home _____ Work _____ Mobile _____
Email:	_____ _____	_____ _____
Religion:	_____	_____
Occupation:	_____	_____
Date of Birth:	_____	_____
Place of Birth: <i>Town / State / Country</i>	_____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____
Marital Status:	Never validly married <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed <input type="checkbox"/>	Never validly married <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed <input type="checkbox"/>
If you have been married previously?		
(i) Place and date of spouse's death.	(i) _____ _____	(i) _____ _____

<p>(ii) Place and date of decree absolute of civil divorce.</p> <p>(iii) Place and date of Church decree of nullity or dissolution.</p>	<p>(ii) _____ _____</p> <p>(iii) _____ _____</p>	<p>(ii) _____ _____</p> <p>(iii) _____ _____</p>
<p>Church Sacraments:</p>	<p>Baptism Date _____</p> <p>Church _____ _____</p> <p>Confirmation Date _____</p> <p>Church _____ _____</p>	<p>Baptism Date _____</p> <p>Church _____ _____</p> <p>Confirmation Date _____</p> <p>Church _____ _____</p>
<p>Father's Name in full:</p> <p>Father's country of birth:</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>Mother's Name in full:</p> <p>Mother's Maiden Name:</p> <p>Mother's country of birth:</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>Full Name of Witnesses for your wedding day: <i>(must be 18 years and over)</i></p>	<p>1. _____ _____</p>	<p>2. _____ _____</p>