



Getting Married

in the
Willunga Catholic Parish

Congratulations! We rejoice with you and wish you every grace and blessing as you embark upon your journey as a man and woman becoming one in the union of marriage.

This brochure is designed to provide some practical, introductory information about holding your wedding ceremony in one of Willunga Parish's Churches - Mary of Galilee at Aldinga, St Peter's at Normanville or St Joseph's at Willunga.

Christian Marriage

In the Catholic Church marriage is an important religious event. As such, preparing for marriage often means some deep reflection on how God fits into your life, your future and of course, your marriage.

What do I need to know about marrying in any of the three Churches in the Willunga Catholic Parish?

First you need to make a booking. Bookings may be made up to two (2) years in advance.

All bookings for weddings in the Willunga Parish (at Mary of Galilee, the First Disciple at Aldinga, St Peter's at Normanville or St Joseph's at Willunga) must be made through the Parish Office at Willunga - telephone 8556 2132 or email admin@willungaparish.org.au. Please leave a message, or contact one of the numbers on the answering machine if the Office is not staffed.

An initial meeting with the priest is required before a Church booking can be confirmed. You will be asked for the name of the Priest when booking the Church. The Priest most appropriate to officiate at your wedding is your own Parish Priest.

Couples residing outside the Willunga Parish are welcome to use one of our Churches for their wedding, but should provide their own Priest.

Why is the meeting with the priest important?

The Priest will:

- Check that you are able to marry in the Catholic Church and that you understand the commitment involved;
- Assist you in filling out all the paperwork (both Church and civil documents);
- Talk to you about a suitable pre-marriage course;
- Confirm the Church booking; and
- Assist you in preparing the ceremony.

How much notice must we have to be married?

Commonwealth law requires at least one month notice. The Willunga Catholic Parish requires a minimum of three (3) months notice of your intention to marry.

It is preferable to meet with the Priest as early as possible before your wedding - six (6) to nine (9) months prior to the wedding date is preferable.

What documentation must we have to be married?

You must each provide a copy of your birth certificate. The Catholic partner(s) must provide a copy of his/her baptism certificate.

The Priest will assist you to complete a number of forms as required by Government and Church authorities. It is recommended that the completion of these forms be arranged some months before the wedding.

Do we have to do marriage preparation?

Marriage preparation is essential for a marriage in the Catholic Church.

One of the best ways we know is to attend the Marriage Preparation Course offered by Centacare Catholic Family Services, 33 Wakefield Street, ADELAIDE, SA 5000 (telephone 8210 8200).

Information leaflets are available from the Parish Office. Topics include: 'Communication', 'Conflict Resolution', 'Sexuality and Loving', 'Marital Roles' and 'Children'.

Your Priest will discuss your marriage preparation with you.

What about planning the ceremony, decorations, flowers, music, booklets, etc?

- *The Ceremony*

The Priest will discuss the ceremony with you and help you decide what is most appropriate for your special day.

- *Wedding Booklet*

We recommend that you prepare a booklet for your wedding ceremony. The Priest will help you. Please recognise copyright in your booklet.

- *Flowers*

It is usual for those being married to organise flower arrangements for the ceremony. We would like you to leave two (2) vases of flowers in the Church for the Sunday celebration of Mass.

If there is more than one wedding on the day, you may wish to share. This can be arranged if all parties agree. You may need to negotiate this through the Parish Office.

- *Music/ Organists/Singers*

It is your responsibility to engage an organist or singer(s) for your wedding. The fee for music is to be arranged with the musician.

As your wedding is a religious ceremony, the music chosen must be in keeping with the sacredness of the occasion. Your organist/ musician should be able help you with your selection of appropriate songs.

We have very little room in the front of the Willunga Parish Churches. It would be a good idea to come and have a look at the Church before you make decisions about groups of musicians.

- *Confetti*

Confetti is allowed outside the Church only. We prefer no confetti at all. As rice can become quite slippery and may be safety hazard, we would prefer you used something more suitable. Rose petals and/or bubbles that will not upset the environment, are preferable.

- *Church Property*

The Church is a sacred place. We ask that you do not remove or move statues, etc. If supplying any equipment, we ask that you have someone responsible to collect it after the ceremony. The Church is often left open and unattended and we cannot take responsibility for personal items.

- *Videos and Photographs*

The use of photographers and video cameras is permitted. However, it is important that the mood and integrity of the service is not compromised. Please ask your photographer and/or video producer to speak with the Priest before the wedding service if he/she wishes to stand anywhere else apart from the seating area. Photographs outdoors are permitted in all available garden areas and steps.

- *Is there a fee involved?*

Our Churches are substantial buildings with considerable costs met through the generosity of our regular parishioners. If you are not contributing to the Parish in other ways, you are expected to contribute to meeting these costs by the payment of an appropriate fee.

The following are guidelines towards covering Church Costs.

Parish Church Offering	*\$300
Marriage Stole Offering (Priest)	**\$250

If there is a financial problem, please discuss this with the Priest.

(*Parish Church Offering assists with the upkeep of our Church buildings.
It does not apply to those who regularly contribute through our Parish Renewal Program.)

(**A Stole Offering is a Clergy Stipend and goes to Church Office)

Further Information

Please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Office (8556 2132 or email admin@willungaparish.org.au) if you have any further queries regarding your wedding.

Application to book the Church for Marriage

Please return the form on the next page (along with the Church fee of \$300) to: Willunga Catholic Parish, P0 Box 14, WILLUNGA, SA 5172 as soon as possible for confirmation of your booking.

The Church fee may also be paid by on-line direct credit to:

Willunga Catholic Parish,
BSB: 085-005, Ac/No 489 786 511.

(In the description section, please enter the bride's surname and the word 'wedding'.)

The fee for the Priest is best placed in an envelope and handed directly to the Priest on the wedding day by the Best Man.

Please make contact with the office a few weeks before your wedding to arrange a rehearsal time, if necessary, and a time for opening the Church on the day of the wedding.

We hope all your plans come to fruition and that your wedding day is a truly memorable occasion.

APPLICATION TO BOOK CHURCH FOR MARRIAGE

St Joseph's, Willunga

St Peter's, Normanville

Mary Galilee, the First Disciple, Aldinga

Name of Applicant: _____

Address: _____

Phone: Hm _____ Wk _____ Mob _____

Email: _____

Name of Partner: _____

Address: _____

Phone: Hm _____ Wk _____ Mob _____

Email: _____

Date of Wedding:

Day: _____ Month: _____ Year: _____ Time: _____

Name of Celebrant: _____

(You must have a Celebrant before a booking can be confirmed)

Is it a Nuptial Mass? Yes No

To confirm your booking, please complete and forward this form (with the Church fee - \$300) to Willunga Catholic Parish, PO Box 14, WILLUNGA, SA 5172



Office Use Only:

Date Received: / /

Receipt Number (if applicable):

Rehearsal Date: / /

Rehearsal Time: : am/pm

Time Church needs to be opened on day of wedding: : am/pm

Other requirements:

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Other correspondence:

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