

GENERAL WEDDING INFORMATION FOR THE PARISH OF ALL SAINTS' NEWTOWN

113 Noble St Newtown Vic 3220

Telephone: 03 5223 1118

email: office@allsaints.com

Ministry Team:

Rev Philip Trouse 0416 230 455 pgtrouse@gmail.com

Rev Carlie Hannah

Rev John Walz

We are glad you are considering our church for your wedding.

We have a lovely and historic building, and we enjoy our weekly worship here. Our aim is to make your day very special.

Here are some important things to consider for your wedding day:

1. To secure the church for the particular time and day for your wedding you will need to pay \$300 to The Anglican Parish of All Saints Newtown This is due at the time of booking. It is non-refundable.
2. The remaining wedding fee (\$TBA) needs to be paid by the time of your rehearsal. This fee covers: hire of church, minister's fee, diocesan fees, 'Prepare' processing, organist, an usher, secretarial costs, and costs for the marriage preparation course.
3. At least one of you should be baptised and you will need to find evidence of this from the church where this took place. We can arrange for your baptism if you so desire.
4. We use the service of the Anglican Church of Australia led by one of our ministers. If you have your own minister it is possible for them to take part but you need to discuss this with the minister.
5. Between 1 and 18 months before your wedding you must fill in the Notice of Intended Marriage with the minister. We need to sight birth certificates (a passport is okay only if you are not an Australian citizen).
If you have been divorced you will need to discuss this with the minister, and you must also provide a copy of the Decree Absolute.
6. Following government requirements, we offer a Marriage Preparation course. The course is called Prepare and consists of a questionnaire about your attitudes to finances, communication, conflict resolution, family of origin and family type, sexuality, expectations about marriage, etc. This takes about 45 minutes to fill in online, the results are returned within 2 weeks, and your minister will discuss the results with you over two more sessions. Couples have told us that it is most helpful in covering areas that they have not yet discussed with each other, and in knowing that their relationship has been heading in the right direction. We hope you will see the value of putting at least this amount of time into your ongoing marriage rather than simply preparing for the wedding day.

THE WEDDING CEREMONY

1. This wedding kit contains the order of service to be used and some other advice about your big day.
2. Please give your guests some instructions about how to find the church.
3. You do not have to have a printed order of service. The Anglican order of service is provided in your wedding kit, and you will see that there are choices to make about music, readings and prayers. It is good to involve friends to do the bible readings. We expect that you will personalize the service with the minister.
4. Please discuss your choice of music, traditional or modern. Our organist can also help you here. You may also choose to use your own music, either with live musicians, or played on a CD.
5. Your service may also include Holy Communion, but please let us know early on as this can add time to the service.
6. Your wedding rehearsal will usually be during the week before the day. The rehearsal takes about an hour and we want to make sure you know what is happening on the day. You should ask readers as well as attendants to come. Children taking part can also be familiar with the ceremony and building.
7. We arrange to ring the bell if you want this. You will need to find two people as ushers, who can hand out service leaflets. Traditionally the bride's family sits on the left and the groom's family on the right as you face the altar, but feel free to seat people as you choose.
8. The groom and his attendants should arrive at least 15 minutes before the ceremony and the bride should not arrive more than 5 minutes late if possible.
9. Confetti, flower petals, bubbles etc. are permitted if they are used outside the building. We suggest your ushers hand them out at the end of the service.

CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

These days, many people ask a celebrant to marry them, because they do not want a religious ceremony.

Since you have come to us, however, we assume that you want some sort of blessing from God upon your life together. The service includes Bible readings and prayers for you as you begin married life together.

We believe marriage is a gift from God to the human race, a special and exclusive relationship which is for life.

When you think about the seriousness of the vows you are making, and the sad fact that many marriages today end in divorce, it is a great help to know that God actually wants your marriage to work, and as you seek His will for your life, will bless you if you submit your life to him.

In coming to Marriage, you are responding to a beautiful gift – and seeking God’s blessing on your life together.

THE SERVICE

Entry

Traditionally, the bride walks the aisle, accompanied by a family member, and the families may like to make a gesture in some way to bless the couple as they promise to be together.

Words

The actual core of the service is quite brief, and you will notice that you marry each other by making vows publicly, exchanging rings, offering prayers, and signing official documents.

Witnesses

Usually members of the Bridal party, but these can be any two adults over the age of 18.

Music/hymns

You may choose to use traditional music with our organist, your own musicians, recorded music, or a mixture of all of these. The wedding fee covers the organist if you want one.

THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE MARRIAGE SERVICE

MUSIC PRIOR TO SERVICE

PROCESSION OF THE BRIDE

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

And also with you.

God is love, and those who live in love live in God,
and God lives in them. 1 John 4.16.

We have come together in the presence of God
to witness the marriage of XXX and YYY,
and to ask God's blessing on them
as we share their joy.

Marriage is a gift of God our creator.
It is a symbol of God's unending love for his people,
and of the union between Christ and his Church.
Christ loved his bride the Church,
and gave himself for her.

As he has called XXX and YYY to marriage,
so he draws their differing gifts and hopes
into a unity of love and service.

Scripture teaches that marriage
is a lifelong partnership
uniting a woman and a man in heart, mind and body.
In the joy of their union, husband and wife
enrich and respond to each other,
growing in tenderness and understanding.

XXX and YYY have now come here
to be joined in this holy union.
They seek God's blessing on their life together,
so they may fulfil his purpose for them.

*So let us pray with XXX and YYY
as they prepare to exchange their solemn vows:*

Blessed are you, loving God,
your Spirit binds us together.
Crown our lives with your goodness;

sustain us all our days with your love.

Bless XXX and YYY with wisdom and pleasure.

Be their friend and companion in joy,
their comfort in need and in sorrow.

And when this life is ended

welcome them into your presence,

there with all your people

to praise your holy name:

**Blessed be God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
As in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.**

Bible reading

*(In addition, you may include a reading of poetry, a reflection,
or other appropriate material as chosen by the couple)*

An Address (by the minister or another participant)

(THE VOWS: this section is the core of the service)

THE CONSENT

YYY, will you give yourself to XXX, to be her husband,
to live with her according to God's word?

Will you love her, comfort her,
honour and protect her,
and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her
so long as you both shall live?

I will.

XXX, will you give yourself to YYY, to be his wife,
to live with him according to God's word?

Will you love him, comfort him,
honour and protect him,
and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him
so long as you both shall live?

I will.

Families and friends,
you are witnesses to these vows.

Will you do everything in your power
to uphold XXX and YYY in their marriage?

We will.

THE VOWS

I, YYY, in the presence of God,
take you, XXX, to be my wife:
to have and to hold
from this day forward,
for better, for worse,
 for richer, for poorer,
 in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish,
so long as we both shall live.
All this I vow and promise.

I XXX, in the presence of God,
take you, YYY, to be my husband;
 to have and to hold
 from this day forward,
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
 to love and to cherish,
 so long as we both shall live.
All this I vow and promise.

(The Rings are blessed)

God of steadfast love, by your blessing,
let these rings be for YYY and XXX
a symbol of their love and faithfulness
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

I give you this ring
as a symbol of our marriage.
With all that I am and all that I have
I honour you; in the name of God. **Amen**

I receive this ring as a symbol of your love and faithfulness
to the end of our days.
May God enable us to grow in love together.

DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE

Before God and in the presence of us all,
YYY and XXX have joined hands
and made their solemn vows,
promising life-long faithfulness to each other.
In the name of God,
I declare them to be husband and wife.
What God has joined together,
let no one separate.

(You may kiss)

XXX AND YYY MAY PRAY TOGETHER:

**God of tenderness and strength,
you have brought our paths together
and led us to this day;
go with us now as we travel through good times,
through trouble, and through change.
Bless our home, our partings and our meetings.
Make us worthy of one another's best,
and tender with one another's dreams. Amen.**

Lord, as friends and family, we want to surround YYY and XXX with our love and blessings.
Be with them as they travel life's journey together.
We pray that their friendship may be strong and enriching, for them and for the others they share their lives with.
We pray for their family life, that they will always be able to keep their priorities in place for a fulfilling and happy life together.
Help them to be patient with one another, to support and encourage each other in good times and in hard times.
May they know that you are present with them, and may their faith and trust in you increase over the years. Bless them today as they begin a new phase of their life together.

God the Father lovingly enfold you,
God the Son grace your home and table,
God the Holy Spirit crown you with joy and peace.
The Lord bless you and keep you in eternal life

Amen.

(THE REGISTER IS SIGNED)

Music

THE BLESSING
May God the Father bless you and keep you.
Jesus, the Son of God, grace your home and table.
The Spirit guide and direct your lives,
bringing you inspiration and comfort and hope.
Now and forever.
Amen

Introduction of the couple:

I ask you to welcome XXX and YYY

RECESSIONAL MUSIC

A SELECTION OF PRAYERS YOU MAY LIKE TO USE:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen**

SELECTIONS MAY BE MADE FROM THESE OR OTHER PRAYERS

1. *Some or all of the following petitions may be used.
The minister and people pray responsively.*

Gracious God we pray for XXX and YYY and give thanks that you have brought them together in marriage.

Spirit of God, bless this marriage.

We thank you for the love and care which, through their parents, has guided XXX and YYY to maturity, and prepared them for this commitment.

Spirit of God, bless this marriage.

Help them (to be wise and loving parents and) to grow together in faithfulness and honesty, in mutual support and patience.

Spirit of God, bless this marriage.

Make their life together a sign of your love in this broken world, may forgiveness heal injury and joy triumph over sorrow.

Spirit of God, bless this marriage.

Be with them in their work and renew them in their leisure.

Spirit of God, bless this marriage.

May they welcome into their home both friends and strangers and so reflect Christ's love for all people.

Spirit of God, bless this marriage.

In all their future together may they enjoy each other's lives and grow through the love they share.

Amen.

2. *All or part of the following prayer may be used.
There may be silence between sections.*

Eternal God, creator of us all,
we praise you for all the ways
in which your love comes into our lives,
and for all the joys
that can come to men and women through marriage.

Today we pray especially for XXX and YYY
as they begin their married life.
With them we thank you for the love and care of their parents
which has guided them to maturity
and prepared them for this commitment.

Give them strength to keep the vows they have made,
to be loyal and faithful to each other,
and to support each other throughout their life,
that they may bear each other's burdens
and share each other's joys.
Help them to be honest and patient with each other.
(to be wise and loving parents)
and to welcome both friends and strangers into their home.
In all their future together may they enjoy each other
and grow through the love they share,
until, at the end of this life,
you receive us all into your eternal kingdom.
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.
Amen.

3. Holy Creator Spirit, you made us and you change us.
let your loving wisdom work with XXX and YYY,
deepening and developing their desire,
moulding and freeing their generosity.
May they achieve stability
and sweetness in their daily lives until their lives shall end.
May they train, support and inspire the children
with whom you entrust them
to enjoy your blessing and to serve your world.
**Holy Spirit of God,
you know our strength
and for our frailty you have compassion.
Be with XXX and YYY
in all they undertake.
And grant that we their friends,
with all who become their friends,
may sense and understand their needs
and help as opportunity demands.**

4. Loving Spirit,
grant to XXX and YYY,
that in giving and forgiving
they may receive from each other lasting joy.
Bind them together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind them together with love.

Grant that they may always take delight in each other,
and each remain the other's heart's desire.
Bind them together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind them together with love.

May they reach such trust and confidence in each other
as shall keep them from unnecessary distress.
May they find courage to meet
the heartaches, disappointments and agonies life can bring.
Be their rock, their fortress,
for they put their trust in you.

Help them to look beyond their own family
and their own concerns
to see the world, suffering and struggling,
the world you have given us to share with one another.
Open their eyes and their hearts.

Give them grace to accept they are mortal,
to face the possibility of death
and the separation it must bring.
Jesus, you are resurrection, you are life.

Additional Prayers

Creating and redeeming God,
it is your love with in marriage makes two persons fully one.
As XXX and YYY love each other, may they also grow in love for you.
Walking together with Christ as their companion on the way,
may they come to those inexpressible joys
which you have prepared for all who love you.
Amen.

God of peace,
your love is generous,
and reaches out to hold us all in your embrace.
Fill our hearts with tenderness
for those with whom we are linked today.
Give us sympathy with each other's trials;
give us patience with each other's faults;
that we may grow in the likeness of Jesus
and share in the joy of your kingdom.
Amen.

Father of all,
we thank you for this new family,
and for everything these parents
and their children have to share;
by your Spirit of peace draw them together
and help them be true friends to one another.
Let your love surround them and your care protect them,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Dear God,
you are merciful and forgiving.
Grant that XXX and YYY,
their family and all who care for them,
may accept your generous love.
Heal their memories, comfort them,
and send them all from here
renewed and hopeful.
Amen.

Creator Spirit,
we thank you for your gift of sexual love,
by which husband and wife
may express their delight in each other,
find refreshment,
and share with you the joy of creating new life.
By your grace may XXX and YYY remain lovers,
rejoicing in your goodness.
Amen.

God, the true source of love,
we pray for all who are committed to each other in love.
through their love may they know your love
and so be renewed for your service in the world.
Amen.

God, the author of love,
we pray for all who are married.
Through their love for each other
may they know the reality of your love
for the whole world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

This prayer may be said by the couple.

God of tenderness and strength,
you have brought our paths together
and led us to this day;
go with us now as we travel through good times,
through trouble, or through change.
Bless our parting and our meetings.
Make us worthy of each other's best,
and tender with each other's dreams,
trusting in your love in Jesus Christ. **Amen**

ALTERNATIVE MARRIAGE BLESSING

All praise to and blessing to you, God of love,
creator of the universe, maker of man and woman in your likeness,
source of blessing for married life.
All praise to you for you have created courtship and marriage,
joy and gladness, feasting and laughter, pleasure and delight.
May your blessing come in full on XXX and YYY.
May they know your presence in their joys and in their sorrows.
May they reach old age in the company of friends
and come at last to your eternal kingdom.
Amen

A SELECTION OF READINGS YOU MAY LIKE TO CHOOSE FROM

1 JOHN 4:7-12

GOD'S LOVE AND OURS

7Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

SONG OF SOLOMON 2:8-14

8 Listen! My lover! Look! Here he comes, leaping across the mountains, bounding over the hills.
9 My lover is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look! There he stands behind our wall, gazing through the windows, peering through the lattice.
10 My lover spoke and said to me, "Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, and come with me.
11 See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone.
12 Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land.
13 The fig tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines spread their fragrance. Arise, come, my darling; my beautiful one, come with me."

Lover

14 My dove in the clefts of the rock,
in the hiding places on the mountainside,
show me your face,
let me hear your voice;
for your voice is sweet,
and your face is lovely.

ROMANS 12: 9 – 18

9Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honour one another above yourselves. 11Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. 12Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.
14Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 16Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. [c] Do not be conceited. 17Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. 18If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

1 CORINTHIANS 13

LOVE

1If I speak in the tongues[a] of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, [b] but have not love, I gain nothing.

4Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

8Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 9For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. 11When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. 12Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

13And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

GENESIS 2

The LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him." So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the LORD God took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the opening. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man.

"At last!" the man exclaimed. "This one is bone from my bone,
and flesh from my flesh!

She will be called 'woman,'
because she was taken from 'man.'"

This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.