

Information for Weddings

To our impending bride and groom, congratulations on your engagement. May this time of preparation for your marriage be truly spiritual and help your relationship to grow even stronger and healthier under God's loving care. You are most welcome to be married in this church at St Paul's Camden, though there are some conditions that need to be respected.

Meaning of Catholic Marriage: The Catholic Church sees marriage as a holy occasion in which bride and groom receive God's loving grace in sacramental form. On all wedding days, brides and grooms indicate through the "Exchange of Consent" that they want to belong to one another for the rest of their lives. In Christian marriage, brides and grooms are indicating that they also want, not only to belong to one another, but that they want their marriage to belong to God. It is appropriate, therefore, that the engagement period includes some form of spiritual preparation.

Pre-Marriage Courses: The Priest is under a canonical obligation (that is, an obligation under church law) to ensure that engaged couples are adequately prepared. Accordingly, enrolment in the CatholicCare marriage preparation course is an obligation for marriages in the parish of Camden. Generally, the couples most willing to do the course are least in need. From experience, the relatively few couples that are somewhat resistant to marriage preparation are those who are most in need. Inquiries with CatholicCare at Campbelltown on 4227 1122.

Documentation: Normally, in the overwhelming number of weddings in which brides and grooms are marrying for the first time, copies of birth and baptism certificates are required. In instances of second marriages, original marriage certificates, divorce/death papers and possibly annulment papers will also be required.

Booklets: Many couples find compiling a booklet containing prayers and readings to be of considerable personal benefit as well as a helpful programme for their guests on the wedding day. These days most people have access to computers and high quality printers which means that the cost of producing the booklets is quite minimal. The celebrant will provide all necessary advice in the production of the programme.

Ushers: Younger members of the family, and perhaps even older children or teenagers, can assist at the church by greeting people at the door and handing out the booklets.

Music: The parish musicians for weddings are Mrs Ilona Degeling on 4655 7164, Mrs Maria Baric on 4647 6774 and Mrs Belinda Vaccaro 0401 199150. Ilona, Maria and Belinda are very accomplished organists who play at Mass on Sundays for the parish. All can play a variety of music, ranging from traditional to contemporary with various organ sounds. Mrs Tasha Hodges, Ms Sarah Vella, and Mr Darko Zoric are outstanding vocalists who sing each week at parish Masses, and who are also available to sing at weddings. Music is required to be sacred or classical. Secular music from pop stars is not permitted although such music might well be appropriate at the wedding reception. Please see the fourth page of this letter for a list of all expenses.

Flowers: Flowers are prepared by 5th Avenue Florist on 9606 8882. The cost is \$200 and includes two large arrangements set against the back wall of the sanctuary. The parish has an account with the florist that is settled at the end of each month. Accordingly, the money for the flowers from the bride and groom is payable to the parish. After the initial appointment, couples are welcome to contact the florist directly and indicate that the booking has been confirmed, the florist requests that this is at least three weeks prior to the wedding. It is a requirement that the flowers remain in the church after the wedding for weekend Masses. Flowers remain an option for all weddings although they are not encouraged for the more solemn church seasons of Lent (six weeks before Easter) and Advent (four weeks before Christmas). Flowers are delivered by the florist directly to the church on the Saturday morning of the wedding.

Pews: Decorations, ribbons or other such arrangements are permitted and can be fitted by use of florist wire covered with florist tape. Elastic may be of use and is permitted. To preserve pews, sticky tape & blue tac are not permitted. Family members are invited to attend to these details during the rehearsal on the Friday evening before the wedding or at 9.30am on the Saturday morning of the wedding. If there are two weddings in the same day, consultation is encouraged.

Photographs: Photographers, Video and Sound Recording are permitted in the church. Those responsible should be suitably dressed and advised to turn-off their mobile phones. The photographer or camera person should always see the celebrant before the wedding begins and only photograph from the designated areas. A presence on the sanctuary would be better avoided as far as possible.

Flash photography is not permitted during the ceremony and continuous clicking should be avoided. A video camera person is permitted to walk around during most parts of the ceremony provided they are discreet, but not when the homily is being delivered. All should be advised that their work should never be the cause of the bride arriving late. The bridal party should arrive at the church 10 minutes early to allow time for photographs and still commence the ceremony on time.

During the ceremony, discretion is expected. Most professionals in the Macarthur have a favourable record on these matters. Please give a copy of these requirements to your photographer so they are aware of their obligations.

Fees: Please see page four.

Confetti: This stuff is an environmental hazard and is not permitted either inside or outside of the church – neither is rice. Bubbles are popular these days.

Wedding Times: Generally, the most appropriate time is 2.00pm, allowing time for a second wedding at 12 noon if required. In recent years, some couples have chosen 11.00am to have a lunchtime reception, allowing the bride and groom to take advantage in the evening of any five-star accommodation.

Rehearsal: Generally, the rehearsal time is 5.00pm on the Friday evening on the day before the wedding. The bridal party should be present and, ideally, the person “giving away” the bride – usually dad. Rehearsal times are negotiable.

The fellows are also welcome, but their presence is not really needed since directions can be given to them as they await the arrival of the bride on the day of the wedding. The main reason for the rehearsal is to simply give the bride and groom a “feel” for the sanctuary and other areas of the church through which they will be moving during the ceremony.

Flower girls and pageboys should come to the rehearsal. There should be considerable caution in having flower girls and pageboys who are pre-school. They are often unable to remain composed or follow directions, and occasionally begin to cry and look for mum.

Punctuality: Brides are expected to arrive on time on the wedding day and during the rehearsal. The ceremony will be cut short if the bride is late. The bride should organise to arrive at the church 15 minutes early to allow time for photographs as the bridal party moves from the cars to the church.

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Finally, if you are comfortable with all that is contained in this marriage pack, take the liberty of enrolling in a CatholicCare Marriage preparation course, and then feel most encouraged to contact the presbytery for an appointment.

Yours Sincerely,

Father Michael Williams P.P.



**Parish Office**  
26 John Street, (P.O. Box 7) Camden NSW 2570  
Tel: 4655 8797 Fax: 4655 3684



59 Holdsworth Drive, Narellan Vale NSW 2567  
Tel: 4647 2288 Fax: 4647 2928

# PRICE LIST

In the parish, every effort is undertaken to keep costs as low as possible. The following notes are intended to assist you with selections:

To contain costs, flowers may be prepared at home and brought along to the church at 9:30 AM on Saturday mornings. This is not recommended. The work by 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Florist is most professional and represents very good value for money.

With respect to music, the presence of professional and dedicated musicians and singers brings great beauty to the ceremony and is well worth the cost. These people play and sing at Sunday Mass and are most welcoming of inquiries after Mass. Maria, Ilona, Belinda, Tasha, Sarah and Darko are quite happy to meet with brides and grooms in the church well before the wedding to sample music and singing. This extra time is included in the fees below which are all payable to the parish office

Visiting musicians may play so long as the celebrant provides approval. Please inform the celebrant of your intentions; music for weddings must be sacred or classical.

|                    |                     |          |              |
|--------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------|
| Telephone numbers: | Mrs Maria Baric     | Organist | 0418 661 936 |
|                    | Mrs Ilona Degeling  | Organist | 0418 697 910 |
|                    | Mrs Belinda Vaccaro | Organist | 0401 199 150 |
|                    | Mrs Tasha Hodges    | Vocalist | 0424 042 122 |
|                    | Miss Sarah Vella    | Vocalist | 0478 689 219 |
|                    |                     | Cellist  |              |

**Payment of the required amount is due at least one month before the wedding date. Payment can be made via our website, or to the parish office during office hours, which are Tuesday to Thursday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM and Friday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The form below should be completed and returned to the office either at the time of payment, or by email to [camden@dow.org.au](mailto:camden@dow.org.au) so that funds can be correctly allocated.**

Names of Bride and Groom \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Wedding \_\_\_\_\_

Offering for the church and celebrant together \$300 \_\_\_\_\_

Administration \$50 \$50

Flowers \$200 \_\_\_\_\_

## Organist/ keyboard

Mrs Maria Baric \$250 \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs Ilona Degeling \$250 \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs Belinda Vaccaro \$250 \_\_\_\_\_

Miss Sarah Vella, cellist \$250 \_\_\_\_\_

and

## Vocalists

Mrs Tasha Hodges, an outstanding vocalist \$300 \_\_\_\_\_

Miss Sarah Vella, an outstanding vocalist/cellist \$300 \_\_\_\_\_

(Organist and Keyboard also required)

Organist, keyboard and vocalist \$550 \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_