

Welcome

⁴ [Jesus] answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵ and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? ⁶ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." The Gospel of Matthew 19.4-6

In these words, Jesus affirms the Bible's ancient teaching on marriage. This teaching holds that it is an exclusive, life-long union of a man and a woman, who are joined by God himself. Jesus celebrated marriage and took it seriously, and we do the same.

We offer our Wedding Services free-of-charge to couples who'd like to get married in Broome (or renew their vows) as long as they agree to the following requirements:

1. Couples will participate in at least four marriage preparation sessions (about 8 hours total) with the Minister. Prior to these sessions, the couple pays for and completes the PREPARE couple assessment online. The assessment is not a compatibility test, it just highlights relationship strength and growth areas.
2. Couples who aren't current church members will also participate in a brief course about Christianity. Since our Wedding Service is a Christian ceremony, we believe it's important to ensure that couples understand the Christian faith. This can often happen at the same time as the marriage preparation sessions.
3. We can only conduct weddings 'according to the rites of the Anglican Church'. This means the ceremony cannot be modified (e.g. by writing your own vows). However, couples do have some choices (see below) and there is something significant in making the same marriage vows as countless couples before you.
4. The Minister reserves the right to postpone the wedding at any stage if he believes that to be in the best interests of one or both members of the couple, or if the couple fail to comply with any of the requirements in this document.

Next Steps

As long as both couples are happy with the requirements above (and there is no legal obstacle to their marriage) here's what needs to happen before the wedding:

- ❑ Read this document and complete the Wedding Planner (below) as completely as you can. If you're unsure about any of the items, just leave the space blank.
- ❑ Contact the Minister to find out if he is available to conduct a Wedding Service on the date you'd like. Please note that minimum legal notice is one month.
- ❑ Complete the two-page Notice of Intended Marriage from the Attorney General's Department website.¹ Send it to the Minister, who is required to sight the couple's **original** birth certificates or passports before the wedding.²
- ❑ Send the Wedding Planner to the Minister. It should include two email addresses he can use to register the couple for the PREPARE assessment.
- ❑ Attend the four marriage preparation sessions (and course about Christianity, if applicable). The couple is also welcome at our 9AM Sunday morning service.
- ❑ Arrange a wedding rehearsal with the Minister. This is usually a day or two before the wedding and attended by everyone who has a role in the ceremony.
- ❑ Get married! We expect the groom to be at the church building 20 minutes before the agreed starting time, by which time the bride will also have arrived.

Frequently Asked Questions

What if we don't live in or around Broome?

You may be able to complete the marriage preparation sessions (etc.) on visits to Broome. Or, you may be able to complete them with a Minister in your area. This

¹ <https://www.ag.gov.au/FamiliesAndMarriage/Marriage/resources-for-marriage-celebrants/Pages/download-resources.aspx>. PDF format is preferred. Contact the Minister if you have trouble finding or completing the Notice.

² It may be possible to use other identifying documents if necessary. See Notice of Intended Marriage for details.

Minister is selected by our Minister (not the couple) to make sure that everyone involved is working with a shared understanding of the Christian faith and marriage.

Can we be married outside the church building, e.g. at the beach?

We are able to conduct weddings at other locations with the Bishop's permission.

How long is the Wedding Service?

30-45 minutes, depending on a few things (e.g. whether or not there are hymns).

How many people can sit in the church building?

The church building is rated for 68 occupants.

Can our guests throw confetti / rice / flower petals?

We allow flower petals to outside the church building. Bubbles are OK, too.

Can another minister conduct a wedding in the Broome Anglican Church building?

This is possible. If the Minister in question is not an Anglican Minister in the Diocese of North West Australia, the permission of our Bishop and Parish Council is required.

What if one or both parties are divorced?

In accordance with our understanding of the Lord Jesus and the Apostle Paul,³ we will solemnise the marriage of divorced persons who were victims of sexual infidelity or desertion (including abuse) in a previous marriage. These cases are reviewed by the Bishop and his permission must be granted before we can conduct the ceremony.

Contact



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³ Cf. Matthew 5.32; 19.9; Mark 10.12; Luke 16.18; 1 Corinthians 7.15.

Wedding Planner

Groom's Name	Phone Number	eMail Address
Bride's Name	Phone Number	eMail Address

Wedding Location		
Wedding Day	Wedding Date	Wedding Time
Rehearsal Day	Rehearsal Date	Rehearsal Time

Groomsmen		Bridesmaids	
Witness 1 Full Name		Witness 2 Full Name	
Usher 1	Usher 2	Bell Ringer	Certificate Holder

Processional Music	Register Signing Music	Recessional Music
Bible Reader 1	Bible Reader 2	Prayer Reader
Old Testament Reading Request		New Testament Reading Request
Hymn Request 1	Hymn Request 2	Hymn Request 3

- Musician(s) Provided
 Musician(s) Requested
 Computer Audio
 No Music

This information will be used and securely stored according to the Diocese of North West Australia's Privacy Policy.