

## Welcome

We'd like to begin this booklet with some words from Jesus in the Bible:

<sup>4</sup> [Jesus] answered, 'Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, <sup>5</sup> 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"? <sup>6</sup> 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: holds that it is an exclusive, life-long union of a man and a woman, who are joined together by God himself. Jesus celebrated marriage and took it seriously, and so do we.

We offer wedding services free-of-charge to couples who'd like to get married in Broome, as long as they agree to all of the following expectations:

1. Couples will participate in at least four marriage preparation sessions (about 8 hours total) with a minister. Before these sessions, the couple pays for and completes a PREPARE couple assessment online. The assessment is not a compatibility test, it simply highlights relationship strength and growth areas.

<https://www.prepare-enrich.com>

2. Couples who aren't church members will also participate in a short course introducing the Christian faith. We want to try and help couples understand the faith that's at the heart of the wedding service. This course can usually be undertaken at the same time as the marriage preparation sessions.
3. We only conduct weddings 'according to the rites of the Anglican Church'. So the ceremony cannot be modified (e.g. by writing your own vows). While couples will have some choices about the service, we invite you to consider the significance of making the same vows as countless couples before you.
4. Our ministers reserve the right to postpone the wedding at any stage if he believes that would be in the best interests of one or both people in the couple (e.g. if significant relational issues arise in the marriage preparation sessions) or if the couple cease to comply with any of these expectations.

## 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:

- Carefully read this document, including the Frequently Asked Questions. The Wedding Planner (below) is included for reference only and will be completed by the minister conducting the wedding with the couple's input.
- Contact the church to find out if a minister is available to conduct a wedding on the date you want. Please note the minimum legal notice is one month.
- Send the minister an email address for each person in the couple. This will allow him to register the couple for the PREPARE couple assessment.
- Complete the Australian Government's *Notice of Intended Marriage* as fully as possible. Send this to the minister, who must sight an original birth certificate or passport for each member of the couple before the wedding.

<https://www.ag.gov.au/families-and-marriage/publications/notice-intended-marriage>

- Attend the four marriage preparation sessions (and course about the Christian faith if applicable). We also invite the couple to come to one or more Sunday services if they aren't currently doing so. See our website for service times.
- Participate in the wedding rehearsal. This is usually a day or two before the wedding and is attended by everyone who has a role in the ceremony.
- Get married! We expect that the groom will be early and that the bride will not be late. And we trust you'll enjoy the deep, joyful, meaningful ceremony.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How many people can sit in the church building?

In normal circumstances, the church building has an occupancy limit of 68.

### Can the minister conduct weddings outside the church building?

Yes, we just need to get our Bishop's permission for any other site. We're happy to conduct weddings outside, just like the first wedding (see Genesis 2.18-25).

## What if we don't live in Broome?

We should be able to help you, as long as we can find a way to complete the marriage preparation sessions (e.g. visits to Broome or video conferencing).

## How much time does the wedding service take?

30-60 minutes, depending on a few variables (e.g. whether or not there's singing).

## Can another minister / celebrant conduct our wedding in your building?

Weddings in our building must be conducted according to the rites of the Anglican Church by a minister licensed in the Anglican Diocese of North West Australia.

## What if one or both people in the couple are divorced?

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

\* cf. Matthew 5.32; 19.9; Mark 10.12; Luke 16.18; 1 Corinthians 7.15.

## Contact



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# Wedding Planner

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

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

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

Processional Music	Register Signing Music	Recessional Music
Bible Reader 1	Bible Reader 2	Prayer Leader
Old Testament Reading		New Testament Reading

Hymn / Song 1	Hymn / Song 2	Hymn / Song 3
<input type="checkbox"/> Own Musicians	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Musicians	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer Audio
<input type="checkbox"/> No Music		