

# *Getting Married in the Parish*

We look forward to sharing with you in the planning and the celebration of your wedding.

## **Licence**

A Marriage Licence must be obtained from the Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages and in Christchurch free call 0800-225252. It normally takes four or five days to process an application. To have all the forms filled out in plenty of time the licence should be available for our parish secretary at least a week before the service.

## **Interviews**

After a preliminary meeting where initial arrangements are made there will be three interviews and a rehearsal scheduled. At these we will discuss aspects of marriage and living in relationship, followed by planning of the actual service itself. The rehearsal would normally take place early on the evening before the wedding day.

Please ensure that your date and time is confirmed with us before making other arrangements such as reception venues. We are happy to take bookings well in advance of the proposed date.

## **Choice of Service**

The New Zealand Prayerbook provides three alternative services for you to choose from and there are further options within them. You will need to consider what you would like to have printed for the congregation's use but this will be discussed at the appropriate interview.

## **Music**

The parish will provide musical accompaniment for the service and you may like to speak to the organist beforehand. We can provide suggestions for hymns or songs if you are not familiar with music for the occasion. You will also need to choose voluntaries for entering and leaving the church and again help can be given with this choice.

If you plan to have a soloist or if you have requests for special music of any kind this can be discussed in the interview also.

## **Participants in the Service**

We would encourage you to invite a friend or family member who could read a lesson or lead the prayers in the service. If you have some connection with another priest or minister who you would like to invite to be involved please let us know.

## **Decoration of the Church**

We have excellent flower arrangers in the parish who will do their best to coordinate colours and a sample of fabric that you are using can be helpful. Arrangements in addition to the altar flowers can be included and if you provide your own they can then be taken on to the reception if required.

If you wish to place other decorations in the church (e.g. bows on the end of pews, etc.) please indicate your intention and ensure that no damage can be caused to the furniture

## **Photography**

It is good to have a record of the occasion but anyone taking photographs must remain unobtrusive during the service. Most professional firms understand this, but if a friend or family member is involved they must be cautioned with regard to their positioning. It may be helpful to plan camera locations at the rehearsal.

If a video is being taken please inform the operator that no extra lighting will be permitted in the building.

## **Requirements**

It is an expectation that at least one partner should be a baptised member of the Christian Church. If neither have been, then this should be discussed early on in the planning. It is also expected that one partner, or their family, should reside in the parish or have previous involvement in the church here.

## **Prayers for the Marriage**

On the Sunday preceding the wedding the couple will be prayed for in our regular services of worship. You are encouraged to be present at that time along with any family members who may like to attend.

## **Fees and Donations**

As you will appreciate, a number of people will be providing their time and their talents to make your wedding a happy and successful occasion. It is appropriate therefore to make a contribution in recognition of their services and the following amounts are suggested:

organist	-	\$60
flowers	-	\$50
parish	-	\$50

There is no "charge" as such for the priest conducting the service although some couples like to make a personal gift at their own discretion.

If neither partner is presently connected with the parish then an additional fee of \$100 will be requested.

## **Reception**

The priest celebrating your marriage will not automatically expect to attend the reception and should be given an invitation if you wish him to come. If you do intend that he should be present and you would like him to officiate in some way please request this in plenty of time.