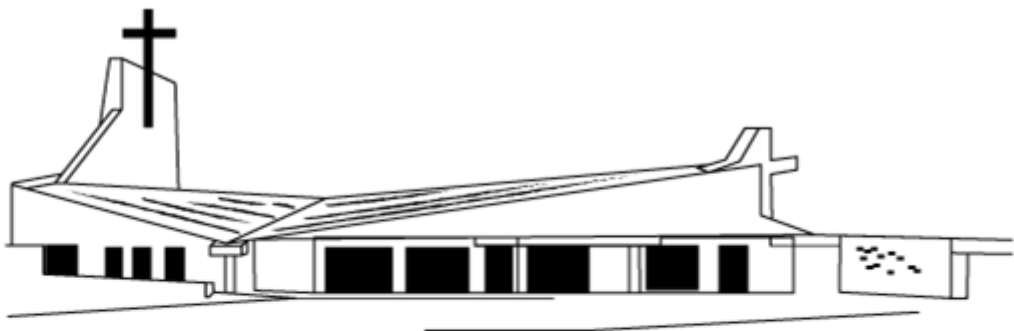


*Information for couples
intending to celebrate
their wedding at
St Bernadette's
Catholic Church,
Castle Hill*



St Bernadette's
Parish Castle Hill

*Thank you for choosing to marry at St Bernadette's Church, Castle Hill.
These notes are to assist you in preparing for this important day.*

Preparation for Marriage:

If you are wanting one of our priests to celebrate the wedding, we suggest you introduce yourselves and ask them in person after mass. They like to know who they are meeting with before agreeing to a wedding. If you are organising a visiting priest to celebrate the wedding, they must ensure they have faculties to celebrate in the Parramatta Diocese.

Many couples approach marriage full of hope but sometimes are not ready to adjust to a new complex and ongoing marriage commitment. The high incidence of marriage breakdown in our community represents a tragic waste of the best human qualities we possess - the capacity for love and trust, the expression of tenderness, the experience of companionship and mutual support. Therefore, both the Federal Government and the Church emphasise the need for marriage preparation.

This preparation will include several interviews at the Parish Office, a formal marriage education course, and a wedding practice. We expect that couples undertake a marriage preparation course such as those provided by CatholicCare or Engaged Encounter as well as having interviews with your celebrant. They must advise the celebrant as to the choice, date and venue of their marriage preparation course.

Documents Required:

You will require the following documents:

A Full Birth Certificate which can be obtained from the Registrar of Births, 191 Thomas Street, Haymarket or GPO Box 30, Sydney 2001 (phone 1300 655 236).

A Baptismal Certificate (less than six months old), which can be obtained by contacting the Parish in which you were baptised. Give your name, date of birth, father's name and mother's maiden name.

If you have been **confirmed**, some evidence of this is also required. **A Confirmation Certificate** can be obtained by contacting the Parish in which you were confirmed. Give your name, date of birth, father's name and mother's maiden name.

You must also complete a **Notice of Intended Marriage** and a form for church purposes indicating your freedom to marry.

Marriage Involving Non-Catholics:

The Catholic Church does not require that a non-Catholic who wishes to marry a Catholic should change religion. Some people wish to do this, and this is a matter that can be discussed privately with the celebrant. In order that the non-Catholic partner understands the Church's requirements that the Catholic partner should make an undertaking in writing to persevere in his/her own faith and to bring up any children in the Catholic faith, the celebrant will include some basic information about the Catholic faith as part of your marriage preparation.

Type of ceremony:

Normally this will be a Marriage Ceremony (Liturgy of the Word). For a Nuptial Mass, we generally require that both parties be practising Catholics (regularly attending Sunday Mass).

Music

When using the sound system in the church, you will need to hire our AV technician to use the system.

AV Technician: Josh Becker. Joshuabecker25@gmail.com

Josh charges \$100 for weddings. This includes him attending the wedding rehearsal, running the AV on the wedding day, and filing all music copyright.

If you are using live musicians, Josh will co-ordinate with them in regard to rehearsal and soundcheck, and what requirements they may need for their instruments.

Music must be appropriate for church, and should be approved by the Priest.

Flowers:

Flowers are arranged for the altar by the parish Flower Group on all weeks except during Lent. However, couples can make their own arrangements for flowers at weddings if they choose to. Please discuss this with Laura at the Parish Office. The church will be specially cleaned for your wedding. It will be used by others after you. For these reasons, and for safety concerns with the marble floor, **flower petals, confetti and rice are prohibited.**

Please note: If you wish to supply your own flowers, apart from Lent, two arrangements should be left in the church after the wedding as a token of thanks to God and to the parish congregation for the use of the church. All other bowls of flowers should be taken to the reception afterwards. Similarly, seat decorations, which may be secured only with ties (no tape or wire please) should be removed from the church seats after the wedding.

Your Wedding:

The clergy of the parish wish to do as much as possible to make your wedding day and its preparation run smoothly. The celebrant will discuss with you the details of the wedding ceremony. Please do not hesitate to ask questions so that the ceremony can be planned with you. A wedding practice will also be arranged. It is helpful to prepare a wedding booklet. Your celebrant will assist you but please let him see a draft before your booklet is printed or photocopied.

The church will be specially cleaned for your wedding. It will be used by others after you. For these reasons, and for safety concerns with the marble floor, **flower petals, confetti and rice are prohibited.** **Reasonable photography and video** are permitted but **arrangements are to be discussed** with the celebrant beforehand.

On the day of your wedding, please understand that the ceremony begins at the time for which it is booked as other parish commitments are undertaken with this in mind. Please advise your photographer and car driver of this requirement.

There is a church booking fee of \$500. The booking fee must be paid to confirm the booking of the Church.

A donation at your discretion is made to the officiating Priest.

Off-street parking is provided for about 200 cars.