

Getting Married at St Michael's Church

Congratulations! We are delighted that you are interested in getting married at St Michael's.

Marriage is a gift from God for the wellbeing of people. It's a symbol of His unending love for his people and the union between Christ and the church.

It is our desire to be as helpful as possible so that your wedding day would be a meaningful and happy day, and that your marriage would be long-lasting, filled with joy, delight and determination.

St Michael's is church designed by famous Sydney architect Edmund Blacket and built in 1854. It is a classic gothic sandstone church, surrounded by beautiful grounds in the heart of the inner city of Sydney. It comfortably seats 120 people, but can fit up to 180 if required.

This document provides you with all the necessary information to get married at St Michael's.

The couples that get married here must fit certain criteria:

- You must be freely choosing to marry (not for visa purposes, not because of any crisis or because your parents want you to, etc.).
- If you have been married before, we will need to interview you first. This is so we can establish that the reasons for the breakdown of the previous marriage have been worked through and resolved as best as possible, and that all legal requirements have been met.
- You must be able to attend a marriage course before your wedding day. This course is designed to benefit you and prepare a strong foundation for your marriage.
- You must be able to declare that you have every intention of keeping your marriage vows and be able to say your vows with integrity.

If you can fulfil the above criteria, please begin to work through the following checklist to help you get to your big day with minimal stress!

Checklist for getting married

If you're interested in being married at St Michael's, these are the steps you need to take:

1. Read the guide below. It will answer most of your questions.
2. [Make a booking](#) and pay your deposit of \$300.
3. Provide certificate of currency for Public Liability Insurance if you are using the hall after the service for refreshments
4. Complete these forms:
 - a. [Notice of Intended Marriage \(NOIM\)](#) This is a legal form which is required to be submitted to the Registry for Births Deaths & Marriages. Please DO NOT SIGN IT but arrange to bring it in at a time where your signature can be witnessed by the pastor (authorised celebrant) who will officiate at your wedding. Remember to bring in your original birth certificates at the same time and your passport if you were born overseas. This must be done at least 1 month before your wedding! Please note: if you would like to be married by a pastor at a different location, you will still need to fill out the NOIM form and return it, though you will need to organise all other details directly with the church or venue you have chosen.
 - b. [Declaration of No Legal Impediment to Marriage](#)
 - c. Wedding Service Form
5. Organise and attend marriage preparation with the pastor who is marrying you.
6. Hold a wedding rehearsal in the week before the wedding day at the church (or in the venue)
7. Get married!

Frequently Asked Questions

Can anyone get married at St Michael's?

For those who are not Christian or a member of Vine Church, we require that you attend a [Christianity Explored](#) course to get a fresh insight into who God is before affirming vows in God's presence.

Can we bring our own pastor?

We are currently accepting bookings for the church as a wedding venue only (you will need to provide your own pastor).

How much does it cost to get married at St Michael's?

Flat fee of \$900. This includes:

- Use of the historic church building and grounds for 3.5 hours
- Public Liability Insurance for your guests
- Site manager on the day
- Cleaning
- Donation towards the conservation and restoration of St Michael's

Optional extras:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| • Musician | \$150-300 |
| • Flowers | \$300 |
| • Sound technician | \$200 |
| • Cleaner | \$70 |
| • Additional hours of use of church | \$100/hr. |
| • Hall | \$54/hr |
| • Grounds | \$54/hr |

Should you require musicians, flowers, use of hall, or additional hours please let us know on your application form. Please note that members of the church (people serving in the church and part of a Community Group) get a discount.

What days of the week are we able to get married at St Michael's?

We conduct weddings every day except Sunday.

What marriage service do you use?

We use *A Service for Marriage (Second Form)* from *An Australian Prayer Book 1978*. Whilst written in contemporary English, it nevertheless maintains much of the beauty and gravitas of the traditional marriage service of the *Book of Common Prayer* that has been used world-wide since 1662.

Can we write our own vows?

No. We are only licensed to conduct services published by the Anglican Church.

Can we honour our parents during the service?

This is possible, but please speak to your pastor.

Can we have readings from poems, plays, novels or other secular sources during the ceremony?

Your wedding is a Christian service and therefore all readings need to be taken from the Bible. We suggest that you try to include any other readings at your wedding reception.

Do we need to sing at a wedding?

No, this is up to you. We recommend solid, easy-to-sing, well-known hymns, sung with a piano. Please read our page on music.

Can you provide musicians for the wedding?

Yes, at a cost. Please note this on your application.

Often members will ask friends who play in the band at church to play at their wedding. Others hire their own musicians and pay for a Sound Operator. Keep in mind that the pastor must agree to any choice of music.

For all music enquiries (song selection, musicians, use of CDs etc) you will need to consult your pastor. Please do not engage any musicians before discussing your requirements with them.

What music do we need to organise?

- Arrival – A playlist of music from a Spotify playlist, phone or iPod as your guests arrive. Alternatively, your band may play some quiet background music.
- Processional – played as the bride walks into the church. Usually a quieter piece of music.
 - 2 hymns – optional. These should be well-known and easy to sing.
- Signing of the register — an item played by musicians or a song played from a Spotify playlist, phone or iPod
- Recessional – the bridal party walking out of the church. Usually an upbeat, joyful piece of music.

Please note:

- You must seek approval from your pastor for your song selections
- Don't forget to tell any musicians you hire if they will be working with other musicians
- Your musicians will need at least two weeks' notice of the music required
- If your wedding uses a Spotify playlist, phone or iPod, you will need to appoint one of your wedding guests to 'press play'. Please bring this person to your rehearsal with the phone or iPod so that they can learn the system and test that it works!

Can we have a soloist?

You may bring a soloist, but this must be approved by your pastor.

Should I pay the musicians?

If music is their job, then you should pay them. When asking them to play, ask them how much you will need to pay them. Usually it is about \$150-\$300 per musician.

If the musicians are from church, and you are not inviting them to the reception, then you should get them a generous gift. We suggest somewhere between \$20-\$50.

If the musicians are invited to the reception, then a card will suffice at a minimum.

What are the rules regarding decorating the church?

All decorations must be agreed to by the pastor and you must arrange to have them removed after the ceremony. The church must be left as it was found.

Do we need to organise flowers for the church?

Flowers are optional. We can provide flowers to decorate the church for your wedding at a cost of \$300.

The arrangements are provided by a professional florist and include:

- 2 large arrangements on pedestals at the front of the church
- 2 arrangements in vases on the communion table at the front of the church
- 1 small posy on the desk for the signing of the registry

We are happy to incorporate specific colours or blooms, provided they are in season and the florist can include them for the usual cost.

How many pews are there if we want to decorate the pew ends?

There are 7 rows of pews to the middle of the church. St Michael's does not provide pew decorations — you need to arrange them yourself. For photos, see [here](#).

What are your rules regarding the use of petals, confetti or rice?

We request that your guests do not throw confetti or rice, either on church property or on the street. This is a safety and littering issue and we appreciate your co-operation. Genuine flower petals are fine for your guests to throw outside the church, as they are biodegradable and will not harm the birds. If you would like to scatter flower petals down the aisle of St Michael's Church, this will incur an additional \$80 fee, as we will need to hire a cleaner to ensure the church is tidy for the following service. Please discuss this with your pastor should you require this.

How much notice do I need to give?

Legally you are required to complete the Notice of Intended Marriage form in the presence of the pastor **one month** prior to the wedding. Apart from this, bookings are subject to the church being available. Please feel free to make further enquiries through the office on (02) 8937 4521 or bookings@vinechurch.com.au.

Do we need to pay the pastor or give him a gift?

You should discuss this with your pastor.

Do we need to invite the pastor to the reception?

No, you do not. The pastor does not expect to be invited to the wedding reception.

How many people does the church seat?

120 comfortably, 180 at a squeeze.

How long does the service go for?

Approximately 40 minutes to 1 hour.

When can our florist, friends, musicians etc. access the church?

The church is opened 1 hour prior to your ceremony and is kept open for half an hour after the ceremony.

Does the bride need to be on time?

Yes, absolutely. 10-15 minutes' grace will be allowed, but anything later may risk losing your deposit. Those involved in the service often have other commitments – including other weddings – to which they cannot be late.

Can I tell my guests a different time to the time that was agreed upon with the church?

If the time you invite your guests to church differs from the scheduled time for your wedding, for whatever reason, please let us know so we are aware of this.

Am I allowed to have a page boy or flower girl?

Yes. Please indicate this on the application form.

Can you give the Bible Readers some tips?

Click [here](#) for some advice for the Bible Readers at your wedding.

Does the church produce the Order of Service for us?

For most weddings, the couple creates the order of service, has it approved by the pastor, and then takes it to be printed elsewhere. If you would like the church to provide an order of service, we may do so on 90gsm natural stock in the format attached for \$300. When you create your order of service, please remember to include the full text of each bible reading (including verse numbers) and if the text you chose is prose, it should be formatted as such. If you have any questions about this, please ask the pastor who is marrying you. [Here](#) is an example of an Order of Service that someone printed for their service. It will give you an idea of what you need to do. Of course you can be creative, but please send through the final draft before printing.

Is there parking available at St Michael's?

There is a wedding bay out front and courtyard out back which may be used for the bridal cars only. This [map](#) shows nearby parking stations, which may be helpful for your guests.

Can we serve refreshments after our ceremony?

Yes, you may serve refreshments at the rear of the church, outside in the grounds, or in the church hall. If this is the case, you will need to purchase Public Liability Insurance, and pay an additional fee. The Anglican Church provides discounted insurance [here](#).

Is flash photography allowed? Is it ok to video the ceremony?

Yes, but please ask your photographer to be respectful during the wedding. Videographers will need to supply their own microphone, which they can give to the pastor to wear.

Are pre-marriage courses compulsory?

Yes. Don't get bogged down preparing your wedding and fail to prepare for your marriage.

Will there be other wedding ceremonies held on the day?

Occasionally we do need to schedule more than one wedding per day, however usually yours is the only wedding. If there is more than one ceremony on your wedding day, to ensure everything runs smoothly, we schedule 1 free hour each side of a wedding.

Can I take a look at the building?

Yes, come and visit our morning service at 10am on Sundays.

Can we have a rehearsal?

Yes, we require it usually one evening during the week prior to the wedding. We encourage you to organize the following people to be there and to go out afterwards for drinks or dinner:

- Bride and groom
- The person walking the bride down the aisle (usually the bride's father)
- The parents of the bride and groom (if they are a support to you)
- The bridesmaids
- The page boy and flower girl
- The person playing the processional and recessional (on iPod or as a band)
- The best man (and groomsmen, though this is less important)

If you need musicians and others to check out things in the building, this is the time to do it.

How do I change my family name once I am married?

Once you are married, you may apply for a change of family name at the Registry for Births, Deaths & Marriages [here](#).

Wishing you every blessing in all your wedding plans.

Contact details

Office

hello@vinechurch.com.au

200 Albion Street, Surry Hills NSW 2010

(02) 8937 4521

Payment Details

St Michaels Anglican Church Surry Hills

BSB 062 033 | ACC 1075 0624

Ref: Wedding [Last Name]

Please note that in the description of your payment/s you must include your last name and the word "Wedding"