Marriage in the Anglican Parish of Hunters Hill

St Mark's, Figtree Road
Hunters Hill

All Saints, Ambrose Street
Hunters Hill

(current as at November 2026)

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations on your decision to be married.

We hope that the time leading up to your wedding day will be an exciting and happy one. We know it will also be busy, so we are ready and willing to help in any way we can to make your wedding day extra special.

We hope that this booklet will help you with some of the more practical aspects of planning your Church wedding. As part of our preparations we will sit down together and walk through this document, and as such the entire process of getting married in our Parish.

We want your day to be truly special, and a great blessing for you as you begin the amazing journey that is marriage.

Rev'd Michael Armstrong
Rector, Anglican Parish of Hunters Hill.

Marriage in the Anglican Church

The Anglican Prayer Book teaches that marriage is the union of a man and a woman in a lifelong partnership in which they are called to unite in heart, mind and body, to enrich and respond to each other and grow in tenderness and understanding. It is a gift from God and a symbol of God's unending love for his people. Marriage is therefore a sacrament, a visible sign of God's love.

Marriage within the Parish of Hunters Hill is conducted in a manner that meets the requirements of both the Church and the State, who have licenced and authorised our clergy to conduct marriages in accordance with the rules and ordinances of the Anglican Church of Australia.

The following booklet provides information for you as to the process of getting married, the conduct of the marriage, and also what we will provide to ensure your day is a true blessing. It will form our "agreement" with yourselves, so please read carefully and ask for clarification if required. Please note that it may also be varied, especially as circumstances beyond our control may vary.

The Process

We'd love to meet you face to face, show you around, and answer your questions in person, so after reading this you may like to make a time to meet up with Rev'd Michael (revmichael@aphh.com.au).

If you don't already attend with us, we recommend coming along on a Sunday morning to Church. This lets you to get to know us a little better, and importantly see and hear our church in usage. Normally we meet on Sunday morning at 8:00am in St Mark's and 10:00am at All Saints'.

When you are ready to commit, we ask that you to complete the application form found on our website. Send this in to Rev'd Michael to confirm your time and date are free. Once this is confirmed we will ask you to pay your deposit of $1000.00 to confirm your intention. After we receive the deposit we will send you a receipt and confirm.

The next step is to meet with Rev'd Michael to complete the Notice of Intention. This is a legal requirement, and you will may need to bring with you your birth certificates or passport and some photo ID (it may be your passport). At that meeting we will also begin some planning for your wedding.

If you opt to do some marriage preparation (highly recommended – see below) you will meet with Rev'd Michael on one or two further occasions, as required. In the week prior to your wedding (preferably the day before) you will need to attend a rehearsal with your bridal party.

A place of worship

All Saints' and St Mark's are first and foremost places of worship for lively communities of faithful Christians who meet regularly in these sacred spaces. As such, there may be items in place that assist with our worship, especially around our liturgical calendar. For example, a Christmas Tree in Advent and Christmas. So it is good to consider these and ask what may be present to ask to avoid any confusion or disappointment.

Pre-Marriage Preparation

There is significant evidence that marriages which have had some preparation have a much higher likelihood of success. Our Parish offers a questionnaire-based course called "Prepare/Enrich". This entails each party completing a questionnaire online, and then meeting with the minister in person to go through the results. When you complete your Notice of Intention we will discuss if you wish to do this. If either party has been married before, this will be compulsory.

Conduct of Services

Your service will be conducted as per the rites of the Anglican Church of Australia using A Prayer Book for Australia Second Order of Holy Matrimony. An outline is found at the end of this document.

Our Church is not "for hire". Your service will be conducted only by our licenced and experienced clergy.

Time and Timing of services

Saturday

Saturday's have set times at 12noon and 3:00pm. At 12noon you are able to move the service time earlier (for example 10am).

We don't advise services after 4pm at All Saints' due to the very bright light that comes in through the West Window, but we can do later service times at St Mark's.

Mid-week and Sunday

We are open to exploring times and dates that suit you from Monday to Friday, and some Sunday afternoons after 1pm are also possible.

Time

Timing is most important as services may occur before or after your wedding. To ensure everyone has plenty of time, we ask that you are mindful of this. If you are late, we have the right to "postpone" your wedding to a later time.

It is advisable that on your wedding invitations you might put a fifteen-minute earlier time slot, such as "11.45am for a 12noon service". This will allow guests to know that you will value their promptness.

An example of timing for a 12noon wedding would be:
11:40am – Church is opened for guests to enter, and Groomsmen are on site.
11:55am – Bridal Party arrives and is welcomed. They then proceed, after a few quick snaps, to enter the church.
12:00noon – Bridal party walks down the aisle (technically "late" if guests thought it was to start at 11.45am) as the service commences.
12:40pm – Bride and Groom depart the church, and photos may be taken with guests on the lawn.
1:15pm – Guests depart site in preparation for the 3pm service.

Fees

A marriage conducted in our Parish is subject to fees. We work very hard at ensuring that our fees cover only the costs incurred by our Parish, and so we do not "negotiate" fees.

For a wedding that takes place in 2026 (any service which occurs from 1st January 2027 to 31st December 2027 the fee is $3,600.00.

This fee includes the Minister, flowers (as below), music (as below), marriage preparation (as below), and access to the church and grounds (for the time allocated above).

Determination of set fees by calendar year

Weddings booked or to occur in the following calendar year are subject to the fees set for that year (e.g. booked in 2027 for a 2028 date, means your fee is that for 2028). These fees are usually not confirmed until November each year, and increases are based on increased costs incurred by the Parish

Music

Our musician, the playing of up to three pieces within the service (see below), and music as the congregation gathers are all provided by our Parish and included within the fee. Our musicians are quite talented, and open to your choices, but please note that choices beyond those included below may incur an additional fee. Talk to the Minister about your thoughts and ideas and he can confirm any costs in writing to you which will likely include the cost of the purchase of appropriate sheet music, and $250.00 for any transcription required per piece of music.

Marriage outside our churches

Marriage services conducted by a Minister outside of one of our church buildings (e.g. Garden, Beach etc) will entail a fee of $2,400.00 in 2027. Please note that a service outside may only occur with approval of the Regional Bishop, and your clergy will explain this and work with you to seek to obtain permission if you require. Travel more than 20km away will also incur an additional fee for travel, and this depends on the distance being requested.

Deposit and Payment

A non-refundable deposit of $1000.00 is required to confirm your booking. Full payment is to occur 60 days prior to the wedding. If payment is not received before that time, without agreement by the Minister in writing, and should attempts to contact you to negotiate fail, we will consider that your wedding has been cancelled by you.

Payment should be made by direct deposit to Commonwealth Bank Account 062182 10022269 in the name of Anglican Parish Hunters Hill. Please reference the Bride's surname and date of wedding.

Postponement or Cancellation

With more than three months' notice we will, via negotiation, seek to postpone a wedding to another mutually suitable time. We cannot guarantee any new dates, and so best to check first before locking in with reception venues. If the service is moved to the following year, the fee for that year will apply.

Should you choose to cancel your wedding with more than 90 days notice, we will refund all but the deposit. Cancellations with less than 90 days notice forfeit the entire fee. Cancellations include the transferring of a Notice of Intention to another marriage celebrant.

Flowers & Decorations

We have some wonderful arrangers in our congregation who ensure that the flowers are beautiful and tasteful, and large enough for our venue. They do "classic" arrangements of two large vases in the sanctuary of the Church, and one further arrangement at the entrance. We provide white flowers with greenery.

We can also provide pew bows (optional, but included in cost).

To ensure high quality and appropriate arrangements for this sacred space, we do not allow other external florists to provide flowers – sorry. Experience has told us they do not always understand the brief and our space. We want the best for you.

Flowers provided by us remain the property of the Parish at the conclusion of the service.

No decorations are to be placed within the Church other than the bows and flowers we provide. Decorations outside the church are possible only upon written agreement with the minister. There will need to be arrangements to ensure their quick removal following the service, to ensure that none of our property is damaged, and that we comply with work, health and safety.

Additional fresh flowers can be arranged through the Minister to be placed in the church. However, we do not believe these are required as we provide ample flowers. The cost for adding small bouquets to be placed in the pew bows down the aisle at All Saints' only is $450.00. Any additional set of flowers in the church is $450.00 per vase.

Seating

St Mark's comfortably seats approximately 60 people. All Saints' comfortably seats 220. Traditionally (but feel free to not do so) the Bride's family and friends sit on the left side of the church, and the Groom's sit on the right.

Ushers

It will be helpful to your guests if you have an usher available at least 30 minutes before the commencement of your wedding service. They can hand out any service books or bubbles, but most importantly assure guests they are in the right place, and tell them where the toilets are.

Readings

An Anglican Wedding Service includes a reading from the bible. There may be up to two readings if you desire. You can choose a suitable reading from the list below or talk with the Minister about other options. Guests are most welcome to read these. Please understand we hold the right to determine what readings can occur, and these need to reflect the ethos of our Parish. Our Church uses the New Revised Standard Version (Updated or Anglicised) of the bible.

Suggested readings:

Genesis 1: 26 – 2: 4a.	Ecclesiastes 4: 9 to 12	1 John 4: 7-16.	John 2: 1-11.
Psalms 128; 37 (3-7);	Ephesians 3: 14-21.	1 Corinthians 13: 1-8a	John 15: 9-17.
67; 23; 100; 121; 138.	1 John 3: 18-24.	Mathew 7: 21- 29.	

Service Sheets

We are happy to help you to prepare an order of service if you require one. An electronic outline is available on our website for you to use as a template.

Music

We value live music on our traditional instruments as a rich contribution to your wedding. We provide our own talented musician to play organ and/or piano, and able to play from an array of traditional music (as below, or upon negotiation). Apologies, we don't allow other musicians or recorded music to be used.

The Minister will need to approve your choices to ensure your day will be a memorable one – for all the right reasons. Music should be selected at least six weeks prior to the service to allow for rehearsal and any preparations by the musician.

There are traditionally three pieces of music included:

1. The entrance of the bridal party (length depends on number in the party);
2. The signing of the register (should be at about 4 minutes long);
3. Recessional (something to leave by).

We are open to also adding in a hymn and you need to discuss these with the Minister in advance. The words to hymns are as per the copyright held by the Parish.

Marriages conducted outdoors are responsible for their own music and copyright.

ENTRANCE MUSIC	
Bridal Chorus – "Lohengrin"	Wagner
Canon In D	Pachelbel
The Prince Of Denmark's March (Trumpet Voluntary In D Major)	Clarke (Purcell)
Trumpet Tune in D	Clarke
Spring From Four Seasons	Vivaldi
St Anthony Chorale	arr. Haydn
SIGNING OF THE REGISTER	
Jesu, Joy Of Man's Desiring	Bach
Air on the G String	Bach
Air from "The Water Music"	Handel
Pie Jesu	Faure
To a Wild Rose	Macdowell
Aria from "Xerxes"	Handel

RECESSIONAL MUSIC	
Wedding March From Midsummer Night's Dream	Mendelssohn
La Rejouissance (The Rejoicing) from "Music for the Fireworks"	Handel
Minuet from Fireworks Music	Handel
Processional from Fireworks Music	Handel
Finale from Fireworks Music	Handel
Ode To Joy	Beethoven
Trumpet Tune	German
March from "Scipio"	Handel
Nun Danket Alle Gott	Karg-Elert
Final from Symphony No. 1	Vierne
Tuba Tune	Cocker

Photography

Your photographer is most welcome. He or she should consult with the Minister prior to the commencement of the service to ensure the best location for photographs is found. On the day of your wedding we will ask guests to keep clear of the aisles if they choose to take photos (and put phones on silent), and express a preference for a "tech free" time as they might simply participate in the moment.

Video

Professional or amateur video is welcome. Video operators require a special "Single-Event Video Licence" from AMCOS/ARIA before a wedding can be videotaped. Please make your family and friends aware of these copyright laws. Refusal to allow videoing on the day can cause confusion and embarrassment.

Live-stream

We are able to provide a live-stream of your service from All Saints' Church (not St Mark's). This requires at least one months' notice to organise.

Something to throw?

We do not permit confetti, rose petals, rice or anything that may require cleaning up or have environmental consequences. We encourage bubbles as an alternative to provide your guests, and these can be used in the church.

Rehearsal

We require a rehearsal with the bridal party before the marriage takes place, usually the evening before. This ensures that your day runs smoothly, and that everyone knows what occurs during the service. This time is usually negotiated at your first meeting with the Minister. The rehearsal usually takes one hour. We ask that:

- The Bride and Groom be present;
- The Bridesmaids and Groomsmen be present;
- The two witnesses be present (this may be Best Man and Matron/Maid of Honour);
- If someone is "giving the bride away" they should come along;
- You bring along any items required for the service;
- If anyone is wearing "heeled" shoes, bring them along.

If you are getting married outside, or at another venue, it is often good to find out if you can also have a rehearsal at that place and book the space for a time negotiated with the Minister.

Marriage Outside

Marriage outside is possible but requires permission from the Bishop. This process may take some time, so best to discuss this early.

It is always lovely to be married outside, but it is ideal to have a back-up plan. We suggest booking an alternative indoor location as a precaution – and make sure that you put this information on your wedding invitation. Marriage outdoors also has some logistical requirements in terms of being seen and being heard. We ask that you arrange for a PA system and some seating (especially for older relatives). Please note that getting married in public parks and gardens often requires a booking to be made through the local city council or other authority, and there is sometimes a fee associated with this that you will be liable to pay.

Grounds Hire

Your fee entitles you to use our grounds following the service for photographs only, within a reasonable time frame (as above). It is possible to extend this if a wedding or other church event is not following your service (on a Saturday this means only after the 3:00pm time slot).

If you wish to use our grounds to serve drinks and nibbles to your guests, then we are most open to exploring this. Unfortunately, this is treated as a separate event by our insurer and so requires us to enter into a licence agreement with you. This will involve various conditions around the serving of alcohol and care for our grounds and facilities. There is an additional fee of $350.00 (plus GST) plus a bond of $500.00 (refundable on meeting conditions in the licence). This entitles you to exclusive use of the grounds for up to two hours. You will also be required to obtain Public Liability Insurance, which we can assist you to do.

We are also happy to recommend local caterers who can assist with service of alcohol and food (who we know and trust) and recommend other options such as the Café's in very close proximity to our Churches.

Legal Speak

Marriage is celebrated within the framework of the *Commonwealth Marriage Act*, which is Federal Law that governs all marriages celebrated within Australia and its Territories. Failure to comply with all the provisions of the Marriage Act involves heavy penalties, invalidation of the marriage, and possible gaol terms.

At least one month (31 + 1 days) prior to the date of your marriage you will need to meet with the Minister complete the legal requirements for marriage. The following areas are applicable, and you need to be aware of them:

Identification

Photo ID is required at the time we complete your Notice of Intention. This may be your Passport, or Drivers Licence (or acceptable State ID Card). If you do not have your passport, we will also need to site your original Birth Certificate with a Drivers Licence.

If available please bring your birth certificate as it contains vital information needed for your Notice of Intention. If your Birth Certificate or Passport is not in English, an acceptable and verified translation will be required by an approved translation service (https://www.naati.com.au/).

Minimum Age

Under the law of the Commonwealth of Australia, the marriage of any person under 18 years of age without the order of a judge or magistrate is invalid. If you are under 18 years of age marriage is still attainable, however, will require greater notice so that permission may be sought.

Evidence of Death
A Death Certificate must be produced before the Marriage of a person whose previous union terminated in the death of the partner may proceed.

Divorce
The Minister must be shown the Decree stating the date of the termination of the previous marriage. Information concerning the date of the first union and the number of children (together with dates of birth) must also be supplied to the Minister. An application to the Bishop of the Diocese in regard to the marriage of divorced persons is required if either party has been previously divorced. Please note the outcome of this application may take considerable time to obtain, so you need to allow more than one months' notice.

Compulsion
It is an offence under the act for any person to be married under duress, compulsion, or in any other way against his or her own free will. At the rehearsal the Minister, by law, will speak with each person separately to ensure that they are not being compelled.

Sobriety
It is an offence under the Act, for any marriage to be solemnised if one or both of the parties to the union appear under the influence of, or affected by, alcohol or drugs. If the Minister feels that any members of the party are not sober, the marriage will be postponed or may be cancelled.

Witnesses
You must have two witnesses to the Marriage, who sign the Registers. Both witnesses must be over the age of 18 years. These are usually your Matron of Honour and Best Man. However, it can be any person present at your wedding.

Terms and Conditions
This document sets out the terms and conditions upon which marriage is to occur within the Anglican parish of Hunters Hill. It is the responsibility of Brides and Grooms to check for updates to these terms on our website. If you have questions or queries, please direct them to the Minister.

Legal Documentation & Certificates

1. Notification of Intended Marriage.
   This form must be signed and witnessed no later than one full month and one day before the date of the Marriage. In all normal circumstances, this should be completed well before the wedding and is usually done at your first meeting with the Minister.
2. Declarations.
   Statutory Declarations as to legal fitness of the couple to be married must be signed before the Marriage and be witnessed by the Minister of the marriage. This is usually done at your rehearsal.
3. Marriage Registry.
   The Parish Register is signed and completed on the day of the marriage, as well as a copy for the Registrar General. This is registered for you by your Minister.
4. Marriage Certificate.
   We provide a "marriage certificate" to you. This is not a legal document. The legal document is the "Registered Marriage Certificate" (below).

Registered Marriage Certificate.
Similar to your birth certificate, a document showing the official registration of your marriage is available from the office of Births, Deaths and Marriages. We do not supply this for you. You can receive one by applying at NSW Births Deaths and Marriages. Your marriage is usually registered by us on the first business day after your wedding. It can take several weeks for your Registration to be officially lodged by the Registry Office and a certificate obtained.

For further information about changing your name, go to:
https://www.nsw.gov.au/family-and-relationships/name-changes-and-corrections/change-your-surname-after-marriage

Your Wedding Service

As part of the Anglican Church of Australia our service follows the pattern of worship outlined in *A Prayer Book for Australia*. The following is an extract of that service.

Entrance
A suitable song is played to welcome the bridal party.

Statement of Intention
The Minister outlines to all present the basis of marriage – love.

We have come together in the presence of God to witness the marriage of *N* and *NN*, and to ask God's blessing on them as we share their joy . . . *(the introduction continues)*

The Reading/s & Homily
The bible reading/s.

A short homily will follow delivered by the Minister.

The Wedding
N, will you give yourself to *NN,* to be her husband, to live with her according to God's word? Will you love her, comfort her, honour and protect her, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her so long as you both shall live? *I will.*

NN, will you give yourself to *N,* to be his wife, to live with him according to God's word? Will you love him, comfort him, honour and protect him, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him so long as you both shall live? *I will.*

Families and friends, you are witnesses to these vows. Will you do everything in your power to uphold *N* and *NN* in their marriage? *We will.*

I, *N*, in the presence of God, take you, *NN*, to be my wife/husband:
to have and to hold from this day forward,
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish,
so long as we both shall live.
All this I vow and promise.

The partner responds in reciprocal.

The rings are blessed and then exchanged.

I give you this ring as a symbol of our marriage. With all that I am and all that I have I honour you; in the name of God. Amen

Hands are joined and wrapped with the Minister's stole.

Before God and in the presence of us all, *N* and *NN* have joined hands and made their solemn vows, promising life-long faithfulness to each other. In the name of God, I declare them to be husband and wife. What God has joined together, let no one separate.

A blessing is said upon the couple.

The couple are pronounced married and invited to kiss one another.

The Register
The Register is signed during which an appropriate song is played.

The Prayers
Prayers are said for the couple and for their future, and this includes the Lord's Prayer.

The Blessing
A final blessing is given and the congregation stand to welcome the new couple.

Contact Us

The Parish Office
is located at 2 Ambrose Street
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