

#### Access to church

Our church is open every day, usually from 7am till late evening. Florists are welcome to leave their deliveries in the church on the day of the wedding.

If you require access to the locked areas of the church (e.g. choir loft) prior to the day of the wedding, phone the office to make an appointment.

On weekends there is plenty of church parking in the school grounds (enter via Kirk St or Ferguson Lane). There is wheel chair access from Archer St.

#### Can we marry on a Sunday?

From 27 November 2011 (Advent) there will be no weddings on Sundays at Our Lady of Dolours Church. This is because the priests and the church are booked for Sunday Masses & Baptisms.

Saturdays are by far the best day for weddings in our parish. Weekdays are also possible.

#### Is there a fee involved?

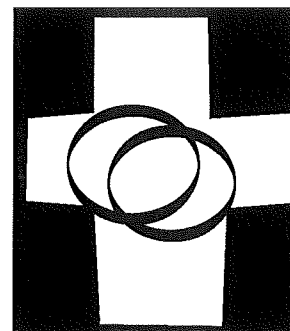
There is no fee for the use of the church. However, on the occasion of a wedding it is customary to make a donation to the parish. As a guideline, please compare the amount of the donation with the other essential wedding costs.

There is no fee for the services of the priest, although you are free to make a gift to him if you so wish.

#### What about decorations, flowers, music, booklets?

The responsibility of these details rests with the couple and their families. We can, however, offer:

- \* Use of an excellent sound system (CD and tapes); an electronic piano and organ;
- \* Two chairs and kneelers with white slip covers to seat the bride and groom.
- \* White bows for decorating pews.
- \* A small range of vases; two pedestals for flowers.
- \* The assistance of Maria & Joe Woods, parishioners who are happy to assist with ideas for making your ceremony a meaningful faith celebration. Ph 9411 3451 (H). They can also arrange a blessing for you at one of our Sunday Masses.
- \* Musicians/singers. This is a private arrangement and contact should be made directly with the musician to negotiate fees.



#### Contact details for weddings:

Our Lady of Dolours  
Parish Office  
94 Archer St  
Chatswood 2067  
Ph 9410 9000  
Fx 9412 1282  
[www.chatswoodparish.org.au](http://www.chatswoodparish.org.au)

Parish Secretary:  
Nicole Gorman  
[nicole@chatswoodparish.org.au](mailto:nicole@chatswoodparish.org.au)

Assistant Priest:  
Fr George Nehme  
[george@chatswoodparish.org.au](mailto:george@chatswoodparish.org.au)

Parish Priest:  
Fr Paul Finucane  
[paul@chatswoodparish.org.au](mailto:paul@chatswoodparish.org.au)

# Getting Married

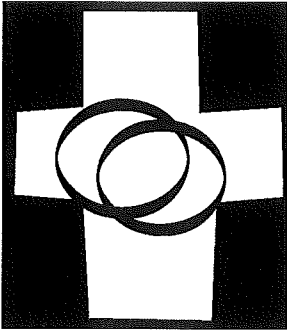
at Our Lady of Dolours  
Catholic Church Chatswood

So, you are engaged.  
Congratulations! That's wonderful!

At Our Lady of Dolours Parish Chatswood we rejoice with you and wish you every grace and blessing as you embark upon your journey as a man and woman becoming one in the union of marriage.

This brochure is designed to provide some practical, introductory information about holding your wedding ceremony at our church.

Remember that first of all you must be *eligible* to marry in the Catholic Church and you need to clearly understand the *commitment* you are undertaking. Please feel welcome to enquire if you have further questions in this regard.



Phoning the parish office:

For general enquiries, our parish secretary, Nicole will be able to assist.

If you wish to ask a specific priest to celebrate your marriage, then ask for him directly. If the priest is unavailable when you phone, one of the staff will take some details over the phone, and arrange for the priest to contact you. (See front page for parish contact details.)

## What do I need to know about marrying at Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Church?

You must make two bookings:

A booking in Our Lady of Dolours *church* diary.

A booking in the *priest's* diary.

Both bookings are essential, and an initial meeting with the priest is required before a church booking can be confirmed.

### ***Why is meeting with the priest important?***

The priest will:

- Check that you are able to marry in the Catholic Church and that you understand the commitment involved;
- Assist you in filling out all the paperwork (both church and civil documents);
- Talk to you about a suitable pre-marriage course;
- Confirm the church booking; and
- Assist you in preparing the ceremony.

### ***What documentation must we have to be married?***

You must each provide a copy of your birth certificate. The Catholic partner(s) must provide a copy of his/her baptism certificate issued within the last six months. You must also provide a Free to Marry letter from the Parish that you reside in, if you do not reside in Chatswood.

### ***How much notice must we give?***

Commonwealth law requires at least one month notice. The Catholic Church requests six months notice. If you are hoping to marry in less than six months, discuss your particular situation with the priest.

***We have a friend who is a priest, can we invite him to do our wedding at Our Lady of Dolours?***

Certainly. In this case the visiting priest takes responsibility for all the preparation and documentation. You simply need to book the church. However, the church booking cannot be confirmed until the availability of the visiting priest has been established, and the parish has recorded his name and contact details.

***Can we book a priest at Our Lady of Dolours, but be married at a church outside the parish?***

In this case, discuss your situation with the priest; but as a general rule, it is unlikely.

This is because the priest is responsible for the weddings of *parishioners*\* at *this* church, and a later request by a parishioner to have a marriage in the parish church on the same date would take priority over a wedding outside the parish.

Having said that, if the priest at Our Lady of Dolours is unavailable, he will be happy to assist you in finding an alternative priest (most likely a priest who is not committed to one parish and therefore may be more available to do your wedding).

***Do we have to do marriage preparation?***

Yes! It is essential that the couple undertake some form of preparation to prepare for the most significant lifelong relationship they will ever enter.

The priest celebrating your wedding will recommend a number of marriage preparation courses available in the Sydney region for you to choose from. Evidence of completion of one of these courses is a requirement.



***\*Who is a 'parishioner'?***

*Geographically I live in Our Lady of Dolours Parish, but I don't go to church any more.*

If you live in the parish, you are a parishioner! Your enquiry is welcome, and we would love you to reacquire yourself with our parish family.

*I am not geographically in your parish but I come to Mass at Our Lady of Dolours all the time.*

Then you are one of our active parishioners! Your enquiry is welcome.

*We are not parishioners but our personal history is connected with this parish community.*

Talk with the priest about your situation. Your enquiry is always welcome.