

St Jude's Anglican Church, Avondale Parish



Marriage Booklet

The marriage service is a service of worship of God in which two people promise to love each other and spend the rest of their lives together.

By approaching us for your wedding ceremony, we understand that to be a request for a Christian marriage ceremony in the Anglican tradition.

This booklet is to help you plan your wedding ceremony and to answer some of your questions



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Planning for your Day

Your first step after reading this information is to arrange a meeting with the Vicar who will help you decide if a church service is the “right” approach for your wedding day. If you live away from Avondale you will need to organize a time to visit. If you live overseas please book a phone call by email when you are both available for the discussion.

It is helpful to book the day and time of your ceremony as soon as possible.

St Jude’s Avondale

Our parish church was built in 1876. It will seat 90-100 guests. There is also room for a marquee if one is required. It also has an organ which provides music for a grand entrance and exit if required, as well as music during the service. There is also an adjacent Parish Hall, which can accommodate 100 guests.

Please note that the seating capacity is finite. If you believe that you will need more seats than the indicated capacity, then we are unfortunately unable to help you.

The Marriage Service

Your service will be based on the marriage services in “**A New Zealand Prayer Book**” which offers an excellent basis for your service. You may include your own reflections/readings, or write your own vows with the approval of the Priest taking your service who will ensure that your vows meet the legal requirements. Your celebrant may also be able to provide some material for you to use if you wish.

We encourage you to sit down together, read through each of the services available and choose the service or elements of each service that best suit your thoughts and desires for your life together.

The Officiant

You will be married by one of the Clergy licensed to our parish, usually the Vicar. At present (May 2018) these are the Rev’d Dr Noel Cox (Priest-in-Charge), and the Rev’d Alison Morgan (Priest Associate). If you wish to be

married by another Anglican priest please contact the Vicar/Priest-in-Charge. Request is sometimes made for couples to be married at one of our churches by other Ministers or Pastors of other Christian denomination using their own order of service. Regretfully this is not permitted. However, the clergy are happy to permit pastors from other denominations to pray for the couple or to do a Scriptural reading or to preach during the service. We are more than happy to marry couples from other denominations.

Music

We have an organ and organists available to play at your wedding, but if you are unfamiliar with traditional wedding music choosing can be difficult. Discuss this with the Priest when you arrange your service.

CD's and soloists are sometimes used, but we encourage you to think about the words and contexts of the songs. Soloists will need to rehearse at least once with the accompanist prior to the service.

The music, hymns, soloists and CD's need to be discussed with the Priest taking your service.

Rehearsal

It is important to have a rehearsal prior to the wedding service. This is an opportunity for everyone involved to become familiar with the service plan, eliminating nerves and difficulties on the day. Everyone who is involved with the wedding should be present, if at all possible.

Flowers

You may use the flowers which are already provided or you may wish to organize your own flowers and someone to arrange them. Please discuss this with the Priest when you arrange your service.

Confetti

May be used outside our churches, however, if it is wet please use your discretion.

The Marriage Licence

We need a licence to marry you!

Around two months before your wedding day you should apply to the registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, email: bdm.nz@dia.govt.nz, Freephone 0800 22 52 52 or (64) 4 463 9362 to discuss your requirements. Their website is <https://www.govt.nz/browse/family-and-whanau/getting-married/get-a-marriage-licence/#who-can-get-it>

The licence is valid for three months, and takes approximately three days to be prepared. The Anglican Church does allow the marriage of divorced people. It is however assumed that both partners of the intending marriage desire to abide by the life-long nature of Marriage. If you have been previously married, you will need to show the Registrar the legal papers relating to the dissolution of that marriage.

The clergy are licensed marriage celebrants and as such are bound by the laws not only of the Anglican Church, but also of New Zealand. They will therefore not perform a wedding service which violates either legal system.

From time to time people who are already married wish to re-affirm their wedding vows in church in the presence of God. We are happy to facilitate such a ceremony and will provide a wedding blessing certificate to mark the occasion. This service follows very closely the structure of a normal wedding service; however the vows are said in such a way as to acknowledge that they are being re-affirmed.

The licence is addressed to the priest marrying you and should be delivered to the Vicar/Priest-in-Charge at least two weeks before your wedding day. Please check the details carefully before delivery to the parish, and if there are any inconsistencies on the documents go back to Births, Deaths and Marriages for them to be corrected.

Fees:

Church and priest	\$500
Organist	\$150
Verger	\$75

It is expected that couples who get married in St Jude's Anglican Church, Avondale Parish will make a financial contribution both for the use of the Church and facilities, and for the considerable time and expertise given in all the preparation involved in making this an extra special day. Nearly eight hours of clergy time is given to each Wedding, which includes the initial meeting, two preparation evenings, a rehearsal and the Wedding Service. Full payment should be made prior to the wedding service (ideally when the Marriage Licence is delivered) or giving it to the Priest at the rehearsal.

A vergers' duties are to take responsibility for the organization of the church i.e. put out and take away extra seating, control the sound system and ensure the church is left tidy afterwards. Please pay all amounts by separate cheques or cash at the rehearsal.

Reception

The reception may be held in the church hall or at any other convenient venue. The church hall can be hired for light refreshments after the wedding at \$35 per hour including GST. This is generally done by couples who wish to offer hospitality to friends who will not be attending the formal wedding reception, or where a more intimate reception is preferred.

The Priest who celebrates your marriage will not expect to be invited to join in your festivities following the service. You will need to issue an invitation if you would like them to attend. Their attendance will of course depend on their own commitments.

Before the wedding:

Preparing to be married

At this time of preparing for your wedding, we encourage you to think about your relationship:

- What are the things that are going well?
- What are the things that aren't going so well?
- How can communication be improved?

Although you may have been living together for some time, our experience is that this is a good time to take stock of the good and not so good things of your partnership. There will never be a better time to think about these things!

Pre-marriage sessions may be arranged with the Vicar. Each of these lasts 1½ hours. Here we discuss informally some of the basic, important issues you will be facing in married life. While these sessions are not compulsory they do provide a great opportunity for couples to spend quality time together reflecting on married life and they give the clergy a chance to get to know you better.

The Wedding Service

The groom and his party should arrive at the church about twenty minutes before the service begins.

The bride and her party should arrive at the time of the wedding, or a little before to allow for photographs.

Many brides are escorted up the aisle by their father or mother, some by both parents and sometimes the bride and groom come in together. The bride may choose to walk down the aisle by herself. Bridesmaids may precede or follow the bride.

Photographs and Videos

Photography and videography of the service are permitted. However, the only photos to be taken during the Service are by arrangement between the priest and the official bridal photographer and videographer. No flood lights are to be used in the church. Professional photographers are well aware of the need for discretion in their movements, so that attention is not withdrawn from the bride and groom and the sanctity of the occasion marred. If friends and family are taking the photos, requirements should be discussed with the priest marrying you and it would be helpful for them to attend the rehearsal.

Ushers

It is helpful to have two ushers at your wedding (although one is sufficient for thirty or fewer guests). Please ask your ushers to help in the following ways.

- Introduce themselves to the Priest taking the service and the Verger if it is a large wedding and a verger is present.
- Welcome your family and friends.
- Hand guests any printed material relating to the service.
- Guide guests to seats near the front of the church, leaving the first row or two of seats for immediate family.
- Collect any printed material left in the pews after the service.
- Arrange for the removal of flowers from the church if the service is during Lent or you are taking your flowers with you to the reception.

A Public Service

A wedding is a public service, and the doors of the church will be left open during the service.

Finally

Our aim is that your wedding day is not only a day for you to remember and cherish for all your life together, but is a joyful service in which a serious and life long commitment is made.

Summary of the process.

- Initial enquiry. This booklet will be sent. No bookings will be made at this stage of the process.
- Read this booklet
- If you decide to go ahead, contact the Vicar of the Parish for further discussion and set a date.
- Meet with the Priest taking your service at least twice and attend a rehearsal at an arranged time.
- Send marriage licence to the Vicar/Priest-in-Charge and pay fees at least two weeks before “The Day.”
- Rehearsal – in the week before....
- The BIG Day!!