

# Your Wedding at St Michael's, Mitcham



We will roll out the red carpet for you.



Congratulations on your decision to be married at St Michael's Anglican Church Mitcham.

Today a church wedding combines the best of ancient traditions and modern experience as you celebrate the beginning of your Life's Journey Together.

A church wedding is a wedding with God's Blessing. This added spiritual dimension is strengthening no matter what your beliefs. At least one of you should be christened in order to be married here, please talk with me if this is a difficulty. God will be with you throughout your marriage.

The vows made in a church are big vows (often called 'Solemn') made in public and amidst historic, prayer-soaked walls and sacred environs. When you marry in a church you are following in the footsteps and traditions of many people before you, perhaps even including those marriages from within your own family.



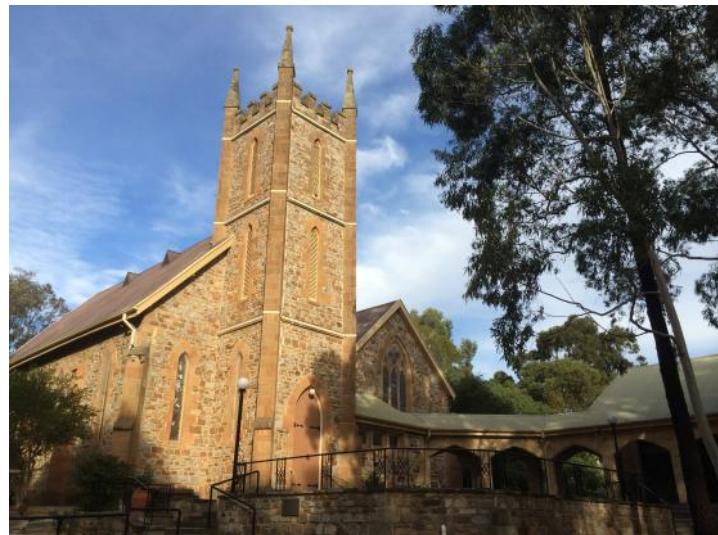
At St Michael's we genuinely care, not just about enabling a beautiful Wedding Day for you, but after too. Many wedding couples have also gone on to have their children baptised at St Michael's. The priest and the spiritual community are always here to offer support if it is ever needed or wanted. As you prepare for the beginning of your marriage you can be assured that our prayers are with you. We hope that your wedding will be a Happy and Holy Occasion.

Sincerely

The Reverend David Covington-Groth

# St Michael's Church building

One of the oldest church buildings in Adelaide, St Michael's was established in 1852. Stained glass windows, in particular the Morris Window behind the Altar, add to the beauty of the building and surrounds. While some of the stained glass windows were built as early as 1901 and imported from England, others are more recent works of one of Adelaide's foremost artists, Cedar Prest.



The Church has a Narthex and Porch, providing both shelter if it rains on your special day and fantastic photo opportunities.

At St Michael's we will literally roll out the red carpet for you to walk up an avenue of Lemon Scented Gums to the church from the Lychgate. The church grounds also include a scented memorial rose garden. The terrace makes an ideal spot for you and your guests to enjoy a glass of Champagne post ceremony should you wish to.

The seating capacity of St Michael's is 160 people. The Church is fully wheelchair accessible. Because the church is set in a quiet residential area there is ample parking both within and outside the church grounds.



Cnr St Michael's & Church Rd  
Mitcham

# **Planning your Wedding**

## **Booking the Church**

It is best if you reserve the church as early as possible to ensure that you obtain the date and time you require. Contact the church office or Parish Priest and check the availability. The booking will be confirmed after contacting the Parish Priest, completing the Wedding Booking Form and paying the deposit. The Wedding Booking Form can be returned to the office or emailed. The deposit will be applied to the balance of the wedding fee (If you do not proceed with your wedding once booked the deposit will be returned less a \$50 administration fee). We encourage the total balance to be paid a minimum of one month before your wedding.

In determining your wedding date, please note there are some times the church is not available i.e.; the week immediately before Easter, and Easter Sunday (The Parish Priest can provide the exact dates). On Sundays the church is available after 1.00 pm.

## **What does the fee include?**

The current wedding fee of \$1200.00 includes all you need for an occasion which is meaningful and above all, joyful.

- ◆ Use of the church
- ◆ The Priest / Celebrant
- ◆ A organist/pianist to play before, during and at the conclusion of the wedding
- ◆ Pew Decorations (although some people like to provide their own)
- ◆ One arrangement of flowers
- ◆ Rehearsal
- ◆ Administration
- ◆ Contribution towards church mission and maintenance

A deposit of \$200 (\$100 non-refundable) is required to confirm the date and time of your wedding ceremony and the balance of \$1000 is payable at least 30 days before the Wedding

Payment by cash, money order or EFT are accepted (Cheques should be made out to Mitcham Anglican Parish) These costs are exempt from GST



## **Meeting with the Priest**

It is important to make your promises with complete understanding of the deep commitment Marriage involves. The priest or celebrant will meet with you both together over several occasions to prepare for both the wedding ceremony and marriage itself. This preparation assists in making your special day more relaxed and personal.

If one or both of the persons intending to be married, have previously been married and divorced, you must talk about this with Fr David as early possible. A previous marriage does not prevent you from being married in the church; however an additional administration procedure needs to be completed.

When you meet Fr David you will need to complete a Notice of Intended Marriage form. This will have been emailed to you. The notice needs to be completed at least 32 days before your wedding but not more than 12 months. To do this you will need:

- ◆ Birth certificate if born in Australia or a passport if born outside Australia.
- ◆ Relevant Divorce or Death certificates.

## **Government requirements**

Marriage is celebrated within the framework of the Commonwealth Marriage Act, which is a federal law governing 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.

1. Age of Consent – Under the law of the Commonwealth of Australia, the marriage of any person under 18 years without the order of a judge or magistrate is invalid
2. Birth Certificate – An original Birth Certificate must be shown to the celebrant of the marriage. A Driver's Licence, Service Identity Card or photocopy of Birth Certificate is not acceptable.
3. Evidence of Death – if you are a widower or widow the law requires that you show to the celebrant a copy of your spouse's death certificate.
4. Divorce – In cases where approval has been given by the Bishop of Adelaide for the remarriage of a divorced person, the Celebrant must be shown the Decree Absolute of the divorce.
5. 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 to be under the influence of or affected by Alcohol or Drugs
6. Witnesses – You must have two witnesses to the Marriage, who sign the Registers. Both witnesses must be over the age of 18 years
7. Legal Documentation – A number of legal documents must be signed as part of the Marriage.
  - a. Notification of Intended Marriage – this is a blue form which must be signed and witnessed no earlier than 12 months and no later than one full month before the date of the Marriage.
  - b. Declarations – Statutory Declarations as to the legal fitness of the couple to be married, must be signed before the marriage, and be witnessed by the celebrant of the marriage.
  - c. Marriage Certificates – three Marriage Certificates are signed on the day of the Marriage. One certificate is sent to the Registrar General, one is kept in the Church marriage registry and the other is handed to the parties of the marriage.

The celebrant will register your Marriage with the Registrar General's Department in Adelaide.

## **Rehearsal**

To ensure the wedding ceremony goes as smoothly as possible, it is important for all of the participants to have an opportunity to ask questions, and become familiar with their particular role. This is normally attended by the groom and best men, the bride and her attendants, person/people escorting the bride down the aisle, and those doing a reading or prayers may also like to attend. The actual time should be organised with the presiding priest, which will normally be a couple of days before the wedding.

At the rehearsal the Statutory Declarations will be signed ensuring that there is no legal impediment to your marriage. Without this document being signed before the marriage, the marriage cannot proceed by law.

If you have recorded music this is also the time to bring them and make sure they play.



### **Choosing music**

St Michael's has a long history of fine music and the magnificent pipe organ is the principal instrument. The Church has a tradition of live music and we wish to encourage this. The church provides the services of an organist for your special day. She will also assist you in suggesting suitable music for your wedding and hymns, should you wish to have them within the service.

The organist welcomes the opportunity to discuss the music and let you hear how it sounds on the organ. The best time for this is usually after the Sunday morning service at about 10.15am. You should contact the organist as soon as possible.

Additional musicians, vocalists, string quartets etc are also possible but need to be discussed with the priest.

Here are some suggestions:

Bride's entry:

- ◆ Bridal March from Lohengrin\* Richard Wagner
- ◆ Prince of Denmark's March
- ◆ (Trumpet Voluntary) Jeremiah Clarke
- ◆ Trumpet Tune and Air Henry Purcell
- ◆ Te Deum Marc Charpentier
- ◆ Trumpet Tune by J. Stanley

Departure of bridal party:

- ◆ Wedding March\* Felix Mendelssohn
- ◆ Trumpet Tune and Air Henry Purcell
- ◆ Hornpipe G. F. Handel

\*these two pieces are not interchangeable

Music during signing of documents

- ◆ Jesu, joy of man's desiring J. S. Bach
- ◆ Air on a G String J. S. Bach
- ◆ Canon in D Pachelbel
- ◆ Selections from Water Music G. F. Handel
- ◆ Gabriel's Oboe by E. Morroconi
- ◆ Psalm 23 by H. Goodall.

You may arrange for an instrumental or vocal soloist or group to perform during the ceremony. The engagement and payment of any additional music is the responsibility of the marriage couple. It is the responsibility of the soloist to contact the organist and provide them with a copy of the necessary music and also arrange a practice time. Only songs appropriate to the solemn occasion should be sung and all songs, hymns and other music should be discussed with the priest.

If you wish to use recorded music, please talk with the priest. The music needs to be in keeping with the celebration of this occasion. You will need to arrange for someone to work the audio equipment on the day. The use of commercially produced CD's and recordings for weddings should be checked for copyright clearance.

## **Order of Service**

Those being married in St Michael's Anglican Church are required to use an order of Service that is authorised by the Diocese of Adelaide. The current one is found in "A Prayer Book for Australia." The priest will walk through this service with you as you prepare, to assist you in understanding the service itself and the commitment you are making.

The wedding ceremony lasts for approximately 40 minutes, depending on the number of readings you choose, the length of your music, size of the wedding party, etc.



## Printed order of Service

A printed copy of the order of service is a useful way of helping people follow and engage with the wedding service, as well as making a nice memento of the Day. The priest will provide the required information to assist you with preparing the Order of Service.

Due to copyright requirements the production of Orders of Service or other printed information to be handed out must adhere to the following conditions:

- ◆ The wedding booklet must be dated.
- ◆ Every copy of the reproduction must carry the following acknowledgement:  
Copyright 1995, The Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation. From  
the text of A Prayer Book for Australia, published under the imprint of  
Broughton Books. Reproduced with permission.
- ◆ Each hymn or poem must acknowledge the author and include appropriate  
copyright information.

## Readings

In the wedding ceremony there is a place for at least one reading from the Bible. The reading is undertaken by a person of your choice. The following suggestions may help you in choosing a reading.

Genesis 1.26-2.4	Romans 12.9-18	Matthew 5.1-12
Genesis 2.18-24	1 Corinthians 12.31-13.13	Matthew 7.21-29
Genesis 24.48-51 & 58-67	Ephesians 3.14-21	Matthew 22.35-40
Song of Songs 2.8-14	Ephesians 5.21-33	John 2.1-11
Song of Songs 4.1-7	Colossians 3.12-29	John 15.9-17
Song of Songs 8.6-7	1 John 3.18-24	
	1 John 4.7-16	

## **Flowers**

The Church provides one arrangement of flowers on the side of the altar. If you wish, you may provide other arrangements in vases, to adorn the church. If these arrangements are in your vases, you may wish to take these to the Reception. You can, of course, use Church urns if you wish and leave them in the Church.

You can tie or hang flowers/bows on the ends of the pews. No drawing pins or adhesives please.

## **Photographs and videos**

We hope you capture some wonderful images of the day and we find most professional photographers respect the mood and integrity of the service.

To allow the service to flow smoothly and with a minimum of distraction, we ask video camera operators and photographers to be as discreet as possible. Therefore, give the following directions to those responsible:

- ◆ The camera operator is to use a minimum of movement.
- ◆ Flash photographs may be taken as the bride comes in, posed shots after the signing of the documents and of the couple as they leave. Other photographs should be taken with the available light and with a minimum of distraction to the couple and those attending.
- ◆ Video cameras must be operated using the available light.

- ◆ If you plan to have a video made, and you are playing copyright protected music during the service, the video operator must possess the necessary licence obtainable from AMCOS. Professional video operators should have this licence already. Please check this.

## **Confetti**

Yes you can. Confetti speaks of colour and celebration. You may throw confetti on the church steps and outside. The same policy exists for rose petals and glitter. Your guests need to give you something to pick out of your clothing and luggage reminding you of your special day for the next few months!

## **On the day**

The doors will be open beforehand to allow all your guests to arrive. Ten minutes before the wedding start time, the organist/pianist or recorded music will play the music you have selected. When the bride arrives at the church, has made her way up the red carpet to the entrance and is ready to proceed, the inner doors of the church will be opened; the processional music will then accompany the bride down the aisle. The ceremony will commence, vows and rings will be exchanged, and then the Register will be signed when there will be another musical interlude. The bride and groom sign the Register and receive their Marriage Certificate. A final blessing is given to conclude the ceremony, the Recessional music will be played and the bridal party make their way down the aisle and out on the steps. There is then the opportunity for the newly married couple to greet guests and be included in the photographs.

We also invite you to enjoy the terrace and yard as backdrops for photographs and / or a glass of Champagne!

## Ushers

It is helpful if you have two ushers available 20 minutes before the commencement of your wedding service. The ushers are responsible for the greeting of your guests, handing out books and service sheets, and ensuring people move into the church prior to the arrival of the bride.

## Arriving at the Church

The Groom and best men are to arrive at least 20 minutes before the agreed starting time. Brides are to arrive slightly before the agreed starting time – so that after parking of the cars and taking photographs the Bride and her party will assemble at the church door on time.

## The red carpet

The Bride cars will park at the front of the lychgate, allowing the bride to enter the church grounds through the lychgate and make her way up the red carpet between Lemon Scented Gums, before making her entrance into the Church itself.



## Pew decorations

Yes. Our price includes white bow decorations; however you may choose to bring your own. If you have used your own decorations we also encourage you to remember to assign someone to remove the decorations after the service. Please let us know if you would like to bring in pew decorations.

## Celebratory Drinks

Why not make use of the terrace out the front of the church following the service to share the moment with a celebratory drink. This gives the opportunity for all people to be included, especially those that have come to witness the occasion but will not be joining you at the reception. Please talk with the celebrant to enquire about arrangements and cost involved.

## Other questions

### Can we use a minister of our choice?

It is a requirement that the minister who presides over the wedding vows and signs the marriage certificate is an Anglican Priest who has the authorisation of both the Rector of Mitcham and the Archbishop of Adelaide to do so. Under most circumstances St Michael's is happy to extend hospitality to other Anglican clergy to officiate. Please discuss this with the Parish priest before making any arrangements. Ministers of other denominations may also be invited to take part in the service, in consultation with the parish priest.



### Attending church

You are not required to attend church in order to be married at St Michael's. However, as you prepare for your marriage the community of faith will pray for you and your life together. It is always a wonderful privilege to have a wedding at St Michael's and more so when the people of the community of faith have had the opportunity to get to know you. Please know you are welcome to attend our worship services at any time as you prepare or after the marriage.

## Contact information

The Anglican Church of St Michael  
Cnr St Michael's & Church Road, Mitcham, South Australia 5062

### Parish Priest

The Reverend David Covington-Groth  
Mobile: 0401 806 280  
Email: [dcovo21@gmail.com](mailto:dcovo21@gmail.com)

### Parish Office

Office staff hours Fri 9am to 2pm  
Phone: 08 8373 3433  
Email: [office@mitchamanglican.org.au](mailto:office@mitchamanglican.org.au)  
Website: [www.mitchamanglican.org.au](http://www.mitchamanglican.org.au)

### Director of Music

Mr Grant Eaton  
Mobile: 0417 804 879



# A Prayer for those Preparing for Marriage

Lord, you compared marriage to the relationship between you and your church.

Be near us now as we prepare for marriage.

May we grow together in love and understanding sustained by the vision of an enduring relationship.

May our marriage be for us a source of great and lasting joy.

May your blessing be upon us in our home and in all our work so that the marriage for which we now prepare may be built upon the strong foundation of our love for you as well as for each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen