

Marriage” form at least one calendar month before the marriage. Special requirements, both Church and State, apply in the case of a person requesting re-marriage.

If the marriage does not take place within 18 months of the date appearing on the documents, their validity ceases and the documents must be renewed. The signatures of the parties on the “Notice” are normally witnessed by the celebrant but may be witnessed by a JP or another priest.

### *Proof of Age and Identity*

Full birth certificates (not extracts) are required, preferably at the first interview. If one of the couple has been divorced, the decree nisi must be provided as well at this time.

### *WEDDING FEES*

Payment in full should be made at the Parish Office, at least one month before the wedding.

There is a basic composite charge for weddings at the Parish of the Parks, which includes the Church, the Vicar or other celebrant, the preparation, large flower arrangements (which stay in the Church), the organist, and the initial booking fee.

Details are available from the Parish Office.

Participation in the “Prepare” marriage preparation is an additional cost. This is payable at the second interview with the Vicar.

Further flower arrangements can be provided, in consultation with the Flower Guild:

Other details, such as special music or soloists, can be discussed with the Director of Music, Mr Hume McGrath.

The wedding ceremony may include a Nuptial Mass if requested.

**Parish Office:** 03 9696 5116

**Office Hours:** Tues/Thurs/Fri 9:30am—1:00pm

**Email:** [office@parishoftheparks.com.au](mailto:office@parishoftheparks.com.au)

**Website:** [www.parishoftheparks.com.au](http://www.parishoftheparks.com.au)



## Getting Married at the Parish of the Parks **ALBERT PARK**

St. Silas Church is one of Melbourne’s best located and most beautiful churches. Situated close to the city, the lake, the beach and the bay, the church was built in 1925 and is unique for its colour and light. We believe our Parish has the only upstairs Church, and in 2011 we installed a lift to make access as simple as possible for those coming to worship here.

Normally the Vicar officiates at the wedding. For a wedding in an Anglican Church the celebrant must be an Anglican priest, appropriately licensed and registered. Clergy of other traditions are most welcome to assist.

Christian marriage includes the taking of wedding vows in Church, asking for God’s help, protection and blessing. This adds to the solemnity of the occasion as each partner makes their loving commitment to the other. We welcome those who wish to take this important step together at the Parish of the Parks.



## *GETTING MARRIED*

Now that you have decided to be married, there are many things to be done. All weddings have to comply with the regulations in the Commonwealth Marriage Act. There are forms to be filled out and preparations made.

### *Two Specific Church Requirements*

Christian marriage normally requires that at least one partner should be baptised.

Special dispensation from the Bishop is needed for the remarriage of a person who has been divorced.

### *First Things*

As early as possible, a date and a time need to be agreed and a non-refundable \$200 deposit paid. Check with the Parish Office to ensure your preferred date is available first. Weddings are not normally held during Lent (the forty days before Easter) and there are absolutely no weddings on the Saturday between Good Friday and Easter Day. Preparation meetings are held at times convenient to all. All the necessary forms can be filled in at this time as well.

### *Marriage Preparation*

All couples who choose to be married at the Parish of the Parks are required to undertake preparation for this most significant step. This includes three sessions of “Prepare”, a marriage and relationship education program.

From “Prepare” a couple can get a clear indication of both the existing strengths in their relationship, as well as areas that might need some further mutual discussion.

Obviously anything that can help ensure the long-term success of your marriage is worth participating in. Couples find “Prepare” helpful and thought provoking.



### *Music*

Music is an important part of the wedding ceremony and we have a fine musical tradition. We have a pipe organ and piano and soloists — so music here is usually ‘live’, not CDs. This is a key part of what being married at the Parish of the Parks includes, and the Director of Music, Hume McGrath, is happy to discuss various options. Recorded music is appropriately kept for the reception.

### *On the Day*

The key thing is to be on time. The old jokes and old wives’ tales about late brides no longer apply. It all works well if each wedding group respects the time constraints when there are other services on the same day.

Your guests should be encouraged to be inside the church ready for you. Ushers should be organised to help with this.

And please, no confetti inside or outside. Outside, good old-fashioned rice, bubbles or rose petals are fine. Please let your guests know this in advance.

### *Legal Requirements*

Under the Commonwealth Marriage Act the requirements for marriage are as follows:

#### *Marriageable Age*

Marriage of any person under 18 years without an order of a Judge or Magistrate is invalid. Under NO circumstances can two persons under 18 years marry each other. Consents from the parents of a person under age are also required.

#### *Witnesses*

Witnesses to the marriage must be at least 18 years of age. They may be male or female, relatives or unrelated. Two are required.

#### *A Special Form*

Those wishing to be married must fill in the official “Notice of Intended