

The Sacrament of Marriage

'A wedding is a day

A marriage is a lifetime.'

Before beginning your wedding preparations you are encouraged to attend a marriage preparation program.

Marriage Preparation Courses are available through:

Catholic Care, Sydney

Phone: 02 9390 5155 E-mail: mre@catholiccare.org

Website: www.catholiccare.org

Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, Watsons Bay

Our Parish Church, dedicated to Mary, under the title 'Star of the Sea', is a place of worship and quiet reflection which holds a maximum of two hundred people. We welcome you to our Parish and ask you to respect and to care for this special place – a beautiful symbol of God's presence among us.

Marriage Celebrant

As the parish priest is also an Auxiliary Bishop, he is unable to officiate at weddings due to the demands placed on his time. Any couple wishing to marry at the church will need to organise their own priest and advise the parish once they have found one.

Booking Procedures

Weddings are normally celebrated on Saturdays, though if another day is desired, this can be negotiated with the Parish Secretary, Alison Bell, on (02) 9337 2033. Times for wedding ceremonies are: 10am, 11am, 2pm or 3pm. Other times may be negotiated, depending on circumstances and availability. Initial enquiries regarding bookings can be made by telephone, but bookings can only be made upon receipt by the Parish Office of the application form (which can be downloaded from <http://www.olss.org.au/pdf/Application-for-Wedding.pdf>) and payment.

Telephone bookings are not accepted. Once a booking has been fully paid for and confirmed by the Parish Office, it will be entered into the Wedding Diary on the church website. Couples are strongly advised **not** to proceed with finalising any other wedding related services, such as photographers, reception venues and printing until your booking has been **fully confirmed, in writing**, by the Parish Office.

Offering and Bookings

Unless you are a regular parishioner of Our Lady Star of the Sea, already contributing to the upkeep of the church, you are invited to make a minimum donation of \$900 to assist with the costs of its upkeep. The donation needs to be paid within 28 days of the initial booking, upon which a receipt will be issued, otherwise the date and time requested cannot be held, due to constant high demand for weddings at the church. Please forward your donation with the Booking Form to:

Attention: Sacramental Co-ordinator
Our Lady Star of the Sea
341 Old South Head Road
WATSONS BAY NSW 2030

As Our Lady Star of the Sea does not have direct deposit or credit card facilities, donations should be made by personal cheque, bank cheque or money order. This donation does not include the usual offering for the Marriage Celebrant. That offering is a personal gift from the couple to the priest. It covers travelling expenses, marriage preparation, planning for the ceremony and legal documentation. A gift of \$300 would be appropriate. Should you wish to change the time of your ceremony from the time originally booked, please contact the parish secretary to discuss. Any change to ceremony time **must** be negotiated with the parish secretary. Please note that the Parish Secretary works at the parish office on Mondays only.

Please note that a \$200 cancellation fee is payable in the event of a cancelled booking.

Wedding Rehearsals

Wedding Rehearsals are held for one hour. The church will be open, at the time agreed, starting no later than 7pm. Earlier times are preferred. As the

church is a house of prayer and worship, wedding parties are reminded to speak quietly when in the church. Children must be supervised at all times. To book a rehearsal, please contact Kaaren O'Sullivan on 9337 2033.

Organist and Musicians

If you wish to use the organ, one of our organists must be used. It is your responsibility to contact them:

Mrs Rosalie Forsyth-Grant (02) 9371 1352
Christine Moriarity 0413 302 615

You may also use other music such as string quartets, vocalists or CDs if you wish. Please ensure you advise us in advance of your music arrangements.

The fees paid to the Organist (and any other musicians, including singers) are not included in the Church Booking. They are the responsibility of the couple and should be negotiated directly with the organist.

Flowers and Decorations

Floral arrangements are welcome and are the responsibility of those being married. We ask that you leave one arrangement on the main altar after the wedding to share with our parishioners at Sunday Mass, except during Lent and Advent. Be sure to arrange with the Pastoral Assistant for the church to be open for flower delivery or pew decoration. These matters should be attended to during the rehearsal.

Church Parking

Bridal cars only may park in the special space in front of the church. No parking whatsoever is allowed within the church grounds or driveway.

Confetti

Please note that confetti, rice or flower petals may not be used in the church or the church grounds. Flower girls must not throw petals inside or outside of the church.

Photography

Photographers are welcome to take photos discreetly and without intrusion in the main body of the church. No equipment or cameras are permitted on the altar.

Security

Please ensure all vehicles are locked and valuables kept out of view. Our Lady Star of the Sea will not be responsible for any loss or damage due to criminal activity.

Edited: 19 July 2011



Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church
341 Old South Head Road
WATSONS BAY NSW 2030

For all wedding enquiries
please contact the Parish Secretary
Tel: (02) 9337 2033
Fax: (02) 9337 2933
Email: watsonsbaysacraments@sydneycatholic.org