

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 the Vicar General, 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. The parish can recommend some clergymen to celebrate the ceremony if required.

Booking Procedures

Initial enquiries regarding bookings can be made by telephone to the Parish Secretary at (02) 9337 2033, but bookings can only be made upon receipt by the Parish Office of the [application form](#) and payment, either by email or hard copy. 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.

If either party to the marriage has been married before and divorced, please contact the parish secretary to discuss booking procedure. A booking cannot be made in this instance without speaking to the parish secretary for further instructions.

Please note that a wedding cannot be booked within **three hours** of the start time of another ceremony. For instance, if there is a wedding booked for 1pm, the only other times available that day would be 10am or 4pm. If you wish to change the start time of your wedding, please **contact the parish secretary to check availability and reserve the new time**. This is very important as it avoids the possibility of a double booking. If a wedding has been booked either before or after your initial wedding start time, it may not be possible to alter your booking. Please note that the parish secretary is in the office on Fridays only, but emails are always open.

Offering and Bookings

The cost of hiring the church for a wedding is \$900. This amount assists the parish with ongoing maintenance costs as it is a heritage listed church. 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: Parish Secretary
Our Lady Star of the Sea
341 Old South Head Road
WATSONS BAY NSW 2030

Payment can be made by made by personal cheque, bank cheque or money order. Please make the cheque payable to "Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church". We also accept direct deposit via internet banking. Our account name is **Watson's Bay Parish Church Account**. BSB is **062-784**, and our account number is **100001567**. When making the deposit please ensure that you include the **surname** of either the bride or groom and the **date of the wedding**. This is very important as we need to be able to identify the payment. After making the deposit, **please email** the parish secretary to confirm payment has been made so that booking can be confirmed. The parish secretary's email address is: parish@olss.org.au. Please note that you

cannot deposit straight into our account in a Commonwealth Bank branch, the deposit can only be done online.

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. Should you wish to change the time of your ceremony from the time originally booked, please contact the parish secretary to discuss. 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. Children must be supervised at all times. To book a rehearsal, please contact the Parish Secretary on (02) 9337 2033.

Organist and Musicians

The parish organ is available for use free of charge. You are welcome to arrange your own organist. We can also recommend Ms Christine Moriarity, who you may contact privately at 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 Parish Secretary for the church to be open for flower delivery or pew decoration.

Church Parking

Bridal cars only may park in the special space in front of the church. No parking is allowed within the church grounds or driveway. Disability-accessible parking is available in the parking lot of The Gunyah, next-door to the Church.

Confetti and use of church grounds

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.

The front courtyard area of the church is small and uncovered, so we are not able to offer areas for drinks or other types of catering either before or after a wedding.

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.

Livestreaming Services

If you would like to have your wedding ceremony livestreamed for any loved ones that cannot make it in person, CeremonyCast is a company that can facilitate this. Contact them via:

Phone: 02 8325 1723 or 0425 765 787

Email: info@ceremonycast.com.au

Website: www.ceremonycast.com.au

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.