

2. Participation in either a Catholic Encounter Day or another approved **Marriage Preparation program** (e.g. Life Partnership Workshop). Any of these options require reservations made well in advance; this is the couple's responsibility. CatholicCare, Victoria also offer the Partnerships' Program for Regional Couples. Bookings and information can be found at www.catholiccarevic.org.au/events.

3. **Planning** of your wedding ceremony. You will be lent the book ***"Together for Life"*** which will help you select readings and prayers to be used in your ceremony.

4. The **Wedding fee** is \$650. A deposit of \$150 must be paid upon booking. If you would like to make a donation to the priest as well this would be most welcome. If you wish you can pay via EFT to: St Brendan's Parish BSB 083543 account number 48359 3006 with reference "Wedding Surnames." We would appreciate it if you would send us an email advising this has been done.

5. Each wedding requires the following **documentation**:

- **Birth Certificate** or Passport if you were born overseas.
- A recent copy of your **Baptismal Certificate** for the Catholic person. If the other partner is baptised we would like a copy of that certificate as well.

6. **Forms to be completed with the priest**:

- Notice of Intended Marriage: (Government requirement).

- Two Marriage Declarations: (Government & Church requirement).
- Form for permission or dispensation in cases of interfaith marriages.

7. **Other Practical Matters**

- **Time of ceremony** - it is important that the ceremony commence at the time arranged so that other people will not be inconvenienced. For example, there may be another wedding to follow, preparation for Mass at 6pm on Saturday evenings.
- **Rehearsal** is held in the church a day or two before the Wedding and should be booked with the priest. At this time you need to sign a "Declaration of Freedom to Marry" to comply with the Australian Marriage Act.
- **Witnesses** - Australian Law requires two witnesses over the age of 18 to sign the marriage certificate and the registers.
- For **Other Matters** - e.g. music, singing, videoing & photography, please consult the priest or parish office on 5821 2633.
- **Wedding Booklet** - will be checked by the priest prior to printing.
- **Flowers** - you can use flowers that are prepared for weekend Masses or you can organise your own flowers with a local florist at your own cost. The Church has a few sets of pew decorations that are available to be used. Please advise our Sacristan, Andrea Hayes, 0407 096440 of your intention. If you are using your own decorations these need to be removed directly after the ceremony.
- **No confetti please** - we ask that guests please do not throw confetti in the church or church grounds. Please also keep flower petals outside the church. Thank you.

*We wish you every blessing for your
future together*

Preparing for Marriage

St Brendan's Parish
Shepparton



Congratulations and Welcome!

A wedding is a special and joyful time for both bride and groom, for your families and friends and for our parish community. The new beginning, the love, the promise and the hope that weddings are, make the celebration a special and grace-filled moment.

The Church welcomes her members to celebrate and solemnize their marriage in the context of our prayer as Catholic Christians. Indeed, so important is marriage in Christian life that the Lord Jesus declared it one of the Church's seven sacraments.



Great care is taken to see that the Church's prayer for this special moment is reverent, graceful, beautiful, and open to the movement of God's Spirit among us. The celebration of the sacraments, marriage included, is always rooted in listening to the Scriptures, so that we can be nourished and strengthened by the Word of God.

We always celebrate the Sacraments as a community. We gather our brothers and sisters in faith, and we ask for their prayerful support. These celebrations are incomplete unless they are filled with song, with prayerful gestures, and with the silence in which we hear the voice of God speaking to his people.

In this spirit, St Brendan's Parish provides the following guidelines for celebrating weddings in the buildings which shelter the prayer of our community.

On the following pages we have put together some information about the process of preparation for marriage as well as some specific parish policies concerning the marriage ceremony. If you have any questions, please feel free to discuss them with our parish team on 03 5821 2633.



*All
photography
by
Rosey
Kilmartin*

The marriage preparation process will include the following elements:

1. An initial interview with a priest. During this interview you will become acquainted with the priest, basic information will be gathered, and the preparation process will be discussed.

Please contact the parish office staff to make an appointment with a priest.

The church should also be booked at this time.

Address: St Brendan's Catholic Parish, 121 Knight Street, Shepparton, Victoria. 3630
Telephone: 03 5821 2633 **Email:** shepparton@sandhurst.catholic.org.au