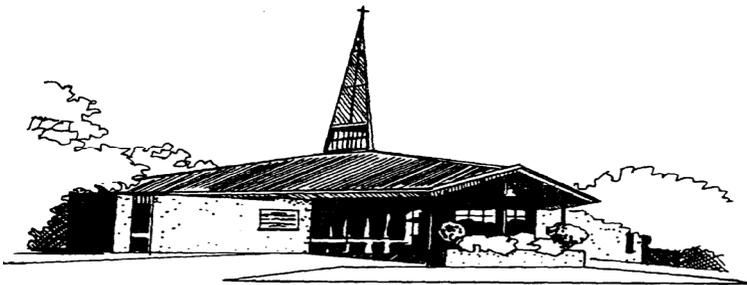




St John's Anglican Church
Coffs Harbour

Your Wedding at
St John's



Revised Feb 2011

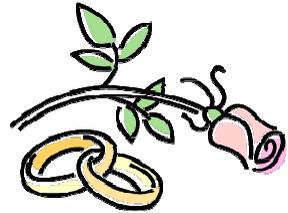
Congratulations

Congratulations on your decision to marry!

A wedding is one of life's great moments, a time for good wishes, feasting and joy. The Gospel of St John tells us how Jesus shared in such an occasion, and gave a sign of new beginning. We pray that both your time of preparation and your wedding day will be a joyful and meaningful experience for you.

We believe that marriage is one of the most important commitments a man and woman can make. Our Marriage Service says:

- Marriage is a gift from God
- It is a life-long partnership
- There are no longer two but one
- They seek God's blessing on their life together



Marriage then, is a serious, yet wonderful relationship which involves commitment of every aspect of our being: physical, sexual, emotional and spiritual. Marriage is intended by God to be a creative relationship - God's blessing enables husband and wife to love and support each other in good times and bad. For Christians, marriage is also an invitation to share life together in the spirit of Jesus Christ. In choosing to be married in the church we understand that you desire God's blessing on your marriage.

The people of St John's are keen to welcome you to our church, and to support you in your marriage. We hope that as part of your preparation you will join us for worship. This helps us to know you better and gives us a real opportunity to pray for you. As a church, we feel a continuing care and responsibility for you after your wedding, so we hope that you will feel free to come to us for whatever help you might need.

We trust that the information provided in this booklet will help you to prepare for a truly memorable, and hassle-free, wedding day. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

God bless you both as you prepare for your marriage.

Fr Ian Mabey
Rector

What the Government Requires

The Commonwealth Marriage Act governs all marriages within Australia and its Territories. Failure to comply with all the necessary provisions of the Law involves heavy penalties.

Age

The minimum age is 18 years.



Birth Certificate

An Original Birth Certificate (or Registrar's Certificate Copy of Entry) or a current passport must be shown to the Celebrant before the marriage.

Copies of Birth Certificates may be obtained by paying a fee, and writing to the Registrar General's Department in the capital city of the State in which the applicant was born.

Evidence of Divorce

The Celebrant must be shown the Original Decree Absolute, or a copy certified by the Family Court of Australia, stating the date of the termination of the previous marriage. Information concerning the date of the first marriage and the number of children (together with dates of birth) need also be supplied.

Evidence of Death

A Death Certificate must be produced before the marriage of a person whose previous marriage terminated with the death of the other partner.

Compulsion and Sobriety

It is an offence under the Marriage Act for any person to be married under duress, compulsion, or in any other way against his or her own free will.

It is also an offence under the Act for any marriage to be solemnised if one or both of the parties to the marriage appear to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Names of Parties

It is not possible under the Marriage Act for a person to be married under a name other than their Legal Name. This means that the names appearing on the Marriage Certificate must be Birth Names or previous Marriage Names, unless Original Certification of Adoption or Original Name Change by Deed Poll Documents are produced.

Documentation

During the course of your marriage preparation and the wedding service itself a number of Legal Documents must be signed as part of the Marriage Contract. They are all taken care of as part of our service to you.

Notice of Intended Marriage

This form must be signed and witnessed no later than one month before the date of the wedding, and no earlier than eighteen full months before the date of the wedding. We will organise this with you during our first or second interview.

Statutory Declarations

Statutory Declarations as to legal fitness of the couple to be married must be signed before the marriage and be witnessed by the celebrant of the marriage. This is usually signed during the rehearsal.

Marriage Certificates

Two Marriage Certificates are signed on the day of the wedding. One certificate is sent to the Registrar General, the other is handed to you. The Marriage Register Book, which is kept by the church, is also signed on the day of the wedding. Couples are reminded that it is not possible for the celebrant to re-issue a Marriage Certificate.

Witnesses

Two witnesses to the marriage are necessary. Both witnesses must be over the age of 18 years, and are required to sign the certificates.

Changing your address?

To ensure accuracy and legal correctness, couples are advised to inform the Celebrant if they intend to change their address prior to their marriage.

What the Church Requires

Baptism

At least one of the parties to the marriage must be baptised. If you are not baptised and would like to be, we can arrange suitable instruction in the Christian faith.

Preparation

The Church is most concerned that you make your vows with an understanding of the commitment that marriage involves. We are also committed to doing all we can to help you reflect on and strengthen your relationship. Marriage preparation by trained facilitators is therefore offered by St John's.

The Order of Service

The Church requires that services authorised for use in the Anglican Church in Australia be used. There are, however, options that will enable you to shape the service for your special day. We will work with you to personalise the service for your wedding. We would be pleased to include the celebration of Holy Communion.

Place

If the venue for the service is not a licensed place of worship permission will need to be gained from the Bishop. Please allow 3 months for this process to occur.

Remarriage after Divorce

Marriage of divorced persons is permitted with the approval of our Bishop. Please allow 3 months for this process to occur. We believe that God wants you to live happy and fulfilling lives. We pray that the relationship you are nurturing with each other will be a blessing for your lives. Like everyone preparing for marriage, we will encourage you to reflect on your relationship through a marriage preparation process.



Some Practical Matters

Notice

It is best if we can set aside at least three months notice for you to prepare, in order not to rush this significant time.

Bookings

You are invited to contact the church office with a provisional date for your wedding and to arrange an interview with the Priest. The booking will be confirmed after due consultation with the Priest.

Interviews and Rehearsal

You should expect a number of interviews in preparation for the marriage. These include the marriage preparation programme as well as preparation for the wedding service. A rehearsal is normally arranged with the bridal party for a night or two before the wedding service.

Change of Date or Time

If for any reason you find it necessary to alter the time or change the date, or postpone the wedding, please inform the Priest immediately so that suitable arrangements may be made.

The Priest and staff make every effort to assist in time changes.

Invitations and Press Notices

The printing of invitations should not happen until the date and time of the ceremony have been confirmed with the Priest, and a letter of such confirmation received. Generally this will not be settled before the first interview.

We ask you to use the correct name and address:

St John's Anglican Church (not Church of England)

2 McLean Street

Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

The Marriage Service

We look forward to helping you prepare a special wedding ceremony. These are some of the things we will consider:

Music

All music used at weddings is chosen after consultation with the Priest. St John's Church has an excellent sound system and the facility for CDs to be played. An organist can be arranged if required.



Service Booklets

We will provide an electronic master copy of the customised service booklet for you to arrange printing. The church office is able to offer printing. Please check with staff for current charges.

Flowers

The church is generally decorated with flowers on Saturdays in preparation for our Sunday worship (except during Lent). If you wish to provide your own flowers, special arrangements may be made.

Seat Decorations

We attempt to keep our church furniture in the best possible condition for everyone's enjoyment. Therefore we ask that if seat decorations are used, they be affixed to the end of the pews by means of elastic or ribbon only. Please do not use sticky tape, pins, blu-tak or adhesives.



Photographs and Videos

Your photography and video operator are welcome to record your wedding on film. Your photographer or video operator should introduce themselves to the Priest, who will give them details of the service. Parents, relatives and friends are welcome to take photographs during the signing of the register.

A licence is required from the Australian Mechanical Copyright Owners Society (AMCOS) when music is recorded on video. Some professional video operators already have a licence. A special single event licence can be obtained when amateur operators do the recording. An application form can be downloaded from www.apra.com.

Confetti and Rice

We ask that confetti and rice not be used in or outside the church. Flower petals or bubbles are appropriate.



On Your Wedding Day

Punctuality

As there can be more than one wedding on any given day, please remember that punctuality is important. A mixing of guests coming and going from different weddings detracts from the day for all concerned.

The groom and his attendants should arrive and let their presence be known to the Priest at least 20 minutes before the time of the service.

Fees (current at February 2011)

A fee of \$500 is charged for the wedding.

If an organist is required, an additional fee of \$75 applies.

A non-refundable deposit of \$100.00 is required following the confirmation of your booking. The remainder of the fee must be paid prior to the wedding day and must be paid in cash.

Please feel free to discuss any concerns regarding the fees with the Priest.

WORSHIP TIMES AT ST JOHN'S

Saturday	6.00pm	Holy Communion
Sunday	7.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday	9.00am	Holy Communion
Wednesday	10.00am	Holy Communion

CONTACT DETAILS

Church Office

(9.00am - 1.00pm Monday to Friday)

2 McLean Street

(P O Box 1928)

Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

Ph: (02) 6651 4700

Fax: (02) 6651 4715

email: stjohnscoffs@bigpond.com

Rector

Reverend Ian Mabey

Assistant Priest

Reverend Lenore Moules

