Wedding Information

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST LUKE
Toowoomba
Dear Enquirer,

Thank you for your interest in *The Anglican Parish of St Luke, Toowoomba.*

The Anglican Parish of St Luke consists of three church centres, St Luke’s, All Saints’ and St Mark’s Anglican Churches.

**St Luke’s Anglican Church** is located on the corner of Herries and Ruthven Streets in the city centre. It is an attractive bluestone heritage-listed church with beautiful stained glass windows and a magnificent pipe organ. St Luke’s is well known for its fine musical tradition and is a popular church for weddings due to its size and beauty. There is a circular drive at the front and the church is surrounded by well tended gardens, creating a lovely backdrop for photographs.

**All Saint’s Anglican Church** is tucked away in the beautiful, tree-lined Arthur Street in East Toowoomba. This smaller venue has the charm of a country village church with a historic white timber frontage and gorgeous stained glass windows. The internal pillars and arches make this church an attractive alternative for a smaller wedding.

**St Mark’s Anglican Church** is located on the corner of High and Angle Streets near Picnic Point. It is the newest of our churches and is a more modern alternative to the traditional church building.

The Anglican Parish of St Luke offers more than just a special place for your wedding. We are a community, meeting in several church buildings, sharing worship and life, learning and growing together, embedded in our local community. As you prepare for Marriage we will be praying for you and we invite you to join us to explore connection with God together.

To apply for a wedding in the Anglican Parish of St Luke, please fill out an Application for Marriage form and return it to the St Luke’s Parish Office, or contact us on (07) 4639 1910 for more information.

The Priest-in-Charge will then contact you to arrange to meet and discuss your Wedding.

Preparation for the celebration of your marriage will include several steps to prepare for Marriage, prepare for your Wedding and to meet government requirements.

We are here to assist you with this journey.

- Please arrange to meet as soon as possible with the priest who will be conducting your Wedding.
• After that meeting the date and time for your Wedding can be confirmed.
• You will both need to show originals of your full Birth Certificates. (extracts and photocopies are not able to be accepted).
• Please provide copies of your Baptism Certificate/s.
• Preparation of the Order of Service will be discussed with your priest. (A template is available to download from our website).
• You will need to contact the church organist/pianist and florist after discussing your arrangements with your priest. (Contact details found in this booklet)

Preparing for Marriage and preparing for your Wedding are both important. You will be encouraged to explore ways in which this can best be explored.

Wedding bookings are only confirmed once your signed Application Form has been received and processed at our Office and your $100 non-refundable deposit has been paid.

In determining your wedding date please be aware of other important dates in the church year, such as the Flower and Music Festival in September.

With every blessing as your plan your future together,

The Reverend Paul Mitchell
Priest-in-Charge

St Luke’s Anglican Church located in the city centre

All Saints’ Anglican Church, a village church

St Mark’s Anglican Church, a modern alternative
REQUIREMENTS

BAPTISM
Requesting a celebration of Marriage in an Anglican Church it is expected that one or both parties has been baptized in a mainline Christian church.* Please be prepared to provide a copy of your Baptismal Certificate to the Priest.

DIVORCE
It is possible for those who have previously been married, and who have been divorced, to celebrate Marriage in the Anglican Church. We welcome the opportunity to join with you in celebrating a new beginning. Your priest will discuss with you the requirements to ensure that the emotional, spiritual and practical issues of previous relationships are dealt with to allow this new beginning to flourish. The Priest who will be celebrating your Wedding will need to see the Decree Absolute which ended any previous marriage. The Anglican Church of Australia requires the Bishop to give permission for re-marriage, and so it will be important to meet with your priest to explore this at least six months before your proposed Wedding day.

OTHER INFORMATION

WEDDING TIMES
Weddings in each of our church buildings will be booked no less than 2 hours apart, allowing time for your friends and family to gather, the ceremony to be celebrated and some time for gathering and photographs in the grounds. Unless by prior agreement Wedding parties should plan to move from the grounds about 1½ hours after the scheduled time of the beginning of the ceremony to avoid any clashes with any further wedding booked on the same day.

Being on time is essential. Other events take place in the life of our churches and so to make sure you have all the time you need, we ask that you be on time. The bridegroom’s party are asked to plan to arrive at least 20 minutes before your scheduled time and the bridal party should plan to be in the church grounds 5 minutes before the service starts.

CHURCH SEATING
St Luke’s Church can seat up to 600 people, All Saint’s Church can seat up to 120 people and St Mark’s Church can seat up to 150 people. Our churches are not air-conditioned but pedestal fans are available upon request.

*In addition to the Anglican Church of Australia, these include Roman Catholic Church in Australia, Uniting Church in Australia, Lutheran Church of Australia, Greek Orthodox Church in Australia, Antiochian Orthodox Church, Armenian Apostolic Church, Congregational Federation of Australia, Mar Thoma Church, Romanian Orthodox Church and Serbian Orthodox Church.
**MUSIC**

A list of suggested appropriate music can be found in the *Music for your Wedding* booklet available from our website. You may choose to select from the list provided. Every wedding is an important and unique occasion and should feel personal and special to every couple and their guests. Therefore, should couples wish to select music not listed in the booklet please discuss this with the Priest.

Many Weddings also include hymns which are sung with the friends and family gathered. A selection of possible hymns is included in the *Music for your Wedding* booklet. Any music must be agreed with the Priest as part of the preparations for your wedding. Please also contact our main organist at St Luke’s, Peter Schneider, on 0408 495 233 to discuss your music selections. You may like to meet in the church building and be able to hear some of what has been suggested in that place.

**FLOWERS**

The cost of providing two seasonal arrangements is included in the wedding fee. Should you have any special requests, these will be considered, but actual colours cannot be guaranteed. Should you want more than the two arrangements this can be arranged for an additional fee. Please contact our florist Denise Harcourt on 0432 383 021 or 4693 7010.

**DECORATIONS**

Special decorations on the end of the pews are acceptable, but are your own responsibility. You are welcome to place decorative items, such as bows, on the end of the pews, but we ask that you do not use drawing pins or adhesives (including Blu Tack). If you wish to keep your decorations, please arrange for someone to collect them immediately following the service.

**CONFETTI**

Confetti and rice are not permitted in the church grounds due to littering laws and potential hazards. The recent trend of blowing bubbles is permitted outside the church buildings, though you may want to consider the environmental impact as well as the likelihood of spending the rest of the day covered in a layer of detergent! Fresh rose petals are allowed within the grounds but not within any of the church buildings. A cleaning fee of $130 will be charged if these requirements are not met. Please inform your guests of these requirements.

**PHOTOGRAPHY AND FILM**

You and your family and friends will want to record this special day. It is important also that the focus remains on you without undue distraction. Photographs may be taken at any time, preferably without flash, subject to the usual personal courtesies and avoidance of intrusion on the ceremony and participants. Your photographer is asked to consult with the Priest, prior to the day or immediately upon arrival, regarding the least intrusive places to take photos. The photographer will be asked to exercise discretion, showing respect for the sacred surroundings and for you as the Wedding couple.

Film equipment may be used inside the church if prior arrangements have been made. The organist must be advised as it could involve laws of copyright. No additional lighting may be brought into the church without prior approval and then only in exceptional circumstances.
CHURCH BELL
St Luke’s Church has a heritage-listed bell tower in the church grounds. Please speak to the Priest should you wish to arrange for someone to ring the bell at the close of your wedding ceremony.

SERVICE SHEETS
A basic *Wedding Service Template* can be found at our website for your use. This, and other resources, will be discussed with your Priest as part of your preparation for your Wedding. It is possible to assist with printing of a simple order of service for a small fee per booklet. You may choose to arrange printing yourself, after the details have been agreed with your priest.

PARKING
St Luke’s has off-street parking available for 20 cars. The cars for the bridal party are able to drive off Herries Street to the front door of the church. All Saints’ and St Mark’s churches have a number of off-street parking spaces available.

USHERS
It will be helpful to your guests if you arrange to have two ushers available 15 minutes before the commencement of your wedding service. The ushers help people to their seats and hand out orders of service. They should also know information regarding the nearest toilets etc.

THE JOURNEY TOWARDS YOUR WEDDING AND MARRIAGE
At least six months before the proposed date for your Wedding, and preferably as early as possible, you should have contact with the Priest who will be celebrating the service and assisting you in the preparations.

The legal requirements mean that each of you will need to show your original (full) birth certificates and in some cases other documentation. The initial *Notice of Intention to Marry* must be signed no more than 18 months and no less than 1 month prior to the proposed Wedding day.

If you do not have your full birth certificate, one may be obtained by contacting the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. This does have a cost associated with it, and will require an extended period of time. In the case of persons born outside Australia, who have no official birth certificate, a current passport indicating the country of origin is required and further documentation may need to be completed.

Preparing for Marriage is an important focus for your lives at the moment, alongside preparing for your Wedding. An online survey called *Prepare-Enrich* is a useful tool for helping to develop and strengthen your relationship. Please discuss exploring this with your priest. There are also relationship strengthening courses available through various organisations. Anglicare provides courses which can be accessed through their website: [www.betterrelationships.org.au](http://www.betterrelationships.org.au). Centacare in Toowoomba also has some services available: [www.catholiccare.services](http://www.catholiccare.services).
As a church community we are also here to journey with you. Coming to celebrate your Marriage within the context of the Church is an invitation for God to bless your relationship and your life together. We will be very happy to explore this with you and hope that you will join us for worship and other gatherings before and after the Wedding day. Courses exploring Christian Faith, small groups and other resources to grow and develop our spiritual life are also available.

We are here for you.

**OTHER LEGAL REQUIREMENTS TO NOTE**

**Minimum Age**
Under the law of the Commonwealth of Australia, the marriage of any persons under 18 years of age without the order of a judge or magistrate is invalid. If you are under 18 years of age marriage is still attainable; however, this will require greater notice so that permission may be sought.

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

**Sobriety**
The Priest celebrating the marriage cannot proceed if either bride, groom or witnesses appear to be under the influence of alcohol or non-prescription drugs.

**WITNESSES**
You must have two witnesses to the Marriage, who sign the Registers. Both witnesses must be over the age of 18 years. The Priest celebrating the marriage is the licensed person with legal responsibility for all documents completed to ensure proper registration of your Marriage.

**LEGAL DOCUMENTATION**
A number of Legal Documents must be signed as part of the Marriage Contract.

1. **Notification of Intended Marriage**
This form must be signed and witnessed no later than one full month before the date of the Marriage. In all normal circumstances, this should be completed two months prior to the wedding and the celebrating Priest witnesses the signatures.

2. **Declarations**
Statutory Declarations as to the legal fitness of the couple to be married must be signed before the Marriage and be witnessed by the celebrating Priest.
3. Marriage Certificates
Two Certificates of Marriage are signed on the day of the Marriage. One is sent to the Registrar General, the other, which is more ornamental is handed to the parties at the marriage. For legal purposes you will need to obtain a copy of the official certificate from the registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages after your wedding, for which a fee is payable. A third copy of the details is also signed and retained in the registers of the local Church. Other documentation is processed by the celebrating Priest and the Parish office for your convenience.

FEES
The fee for a wedding is $1050.00 which includes the deposit. This fee covers:
• Use of the Church facilities
• The Priest
• Meetings and consultations
• Rehearsal
• The Organist
• Church flowers (as noted)
• Administration and certificates

A non-refundable deposit of $100 is required to confirm the booking once the application has been received. An invoice for wedding fees will be sent to the address provided on the application form.

WEDDING PAYMENTS
All payments can by made in person via EFTPOS, cheque or cash at the Parish Office or via direct deposit using the details on your invoice.
We do not keep cash on the premises. Therefore, if paying by cash, please bring the exact amount with you.
Cheques can be made payable to The Anglican Parish of St Luke.

OTHER MATTERS
If you have any queries which are not addressed in our booklet, or have concerns about the process, please raise them with the celebrating Priest when you meet.

May God bless you both richly as you prepare for this journey in life together!