



Information for your wedding at St Patricks, Summer Hill

Congratulations on your engagement! We at St Patricks Summer Hill hope that you will have a happy and blessed wedding day and a long and happy marriage. All the members of our parish staff are here to assist you and want to make your wedding day a special event that you will always recall with great fondness and joy.

Couples should also understand that in choosing a Catholic wedding at St Patricks, they are doing more than merely hiring a venue. A wedding celebrated at our Church must be a Catholic wedding, and therefore must be celebrated in strict accordance with the rites of the Catholic Church. All aspects of the celebration must be suited to the sacredness of the place. Below we detail for you what this means in practice and I encourage you to read the following information very carefully.

My staff and I are here to help, and I wish you a very happy wedding day!

Father Sam Lynch
Parish Administrator

Key parish staff are:

Fr Sam Lynch,
Parish Administrator

Mrs Jane Marmotta
Parish Secretary

Mr Tofu Mataele
Caretaker

Please be aware that the parish office is located in Summer Hill and that Fr Sam administers both the parish of Lewisham and the parish of Summer Hill.

Making a booking

Only couples free to marry in the Catholic Church may have a confirmed booking to wed at St Patricks. If either the bride or groom has been married previously, please speak with Fr Sam Lynch before proceeding. In order to book our Church for your wedding you must first have a wedding celebrant. This means a Catholic Priest or Deacon who has met with you and agreed to prepare you for marriage and to celebrate your wedding (see 'finding a celebrant' below). It is expected that couples will book at least 6 months in advance of their wedding in normal circumstances.

To facilitate your wedding, we will agree to 'save the date' for you for up to four weeks. When we agree to 'save the date' for you, this does not constitute a firm booking. Rather,



this means we are giving you our undertaking that you will have 4 weeks to confirm your booking. During that time, if another couple asks for your preferred date and time, we will advise you of that and check that you are still seeking to be married at that time on that date.

You will have a firm booking only when all four of the following have occurred:

- 1) we have received a completed booking form from you
- 2) we have received notification in writing from your celebrant that he has agreed to celebrate your wedding at the date, time and place specified
- 3) we have received a completed and signed booking contract (sent to you once you have found a Priest)
- 4) we have received the donation to the Church

It is the responsibility of the couple making the booking to ensure that they have satisfied all relevant conditions for Catholic marriage.

Times and dates for weddings

Weddings may normally take place at St Patricks on Saturday mornings and Saturday afternoons. Our church is a busy one with masses on both Saturday and Sunday as well as baptisms and other activities and is a popular wedding venue. Couples should therefore carefully note the times they consider for their wedding. Weddings are recommended at either 11am or 2pm.

Donations required

The donation for the use of St Patricks for your wedding is \$550. This donation assists in the upkeep of the church and should be paid via direct deposit.

It is normal to also give the priest celebrant an offering for the work he has done in preparing you and celebrating your wedding. Bear in mind the typical cost of a civil celebrant when considering a suitable offering for the priest. You should pay the priest directly please.

Donations can be made by direct deposit: (Please make sure you include your full name as the reference.)

St Patrick's Parish Church Account

BSB: 062 784

Acc: 4275001

Finding a Celebrant

Parish priests are obliged to celebrate the weddings of their own parishioners in their own parish church. No parish priest is obliged to celebrate the weddings of non-parishioners, nor are they obliged to travel to another church to celebrate a wedding. Fr Sam Lynch is unable to agree to celebrate all the weddings that occur across our combined parishes. If you are not a parishioner who attends Mass in one of our churches, you should, in the first instance, seek to find your own wedding celebrant. It is recommended that you begin by asking your parish priest.



Flowers, decorations, candles and confetti

You may have two flower arrangements placed on either side of the altar for your wedding. These arrangements must be removed from the church immediately after the wedding. You may also place simple ribbon decorations at the ends of pews. These decorations must be designed to tie around the ends of the pews and must be removed immediately after the wedding. You may not affix any form of decoration anywhere in the church as this will cause damage to the Church fixtures.

You may not throw petals, rice, or confetti or release balloons or doves inside or outside the church. These are slip hazards, leave marks and a mess to clean up afterwards. Candles used in the service will be provided by the Church. You may not add elements to the marriage ceremony which are not in the Catholic marriage ritual (eg: a candle ceremony).

Music

Music performed in St Patricks should be appropriate Catholic liturgical music. Love songs, movie scores, and so forth are not prayer and therefore are not suitable for use in a Catholic wedding and may not be performed during weddings. Recorded music may not be used in a wedding service. The Church has an organ and has contact with a stable of church musicians and singers who can assist you. Your priest will be able to provide guidance as to the suitability of your selection. Any arrangements for musicians are not included in the donation to book the Church

Video and photographs

Photographers and videographers should be discrete at all times. At no time should any photographer enter the raised area near the altar (the sanctuary). No extra lighting, or any sort of fixture may be installed in the church. Photographers and videographers should obey the celebrant's instructions immediately if given. The service is not to be unduly delayed for the purpose of taking photographs.

Under no circumstances can your Video team use drones on the parish site. They constitute a serious risk to public safety and the safety of your guests. If they ignore this instruction, the Video company will be banned from the church and your ceremony will not begin until they have left the parish site.

Smoking in the grounds

Please note that the church and the grounds around St Patricks are a smoke free zone. Please do not smoke yourself and advise your guests not to smoke in the church grounds.

Cars and parking

Wedding vehicle drop off/pick up for the church is available outside the main entrance. As it is a public street, we suggest working with your car hire/driver to arrange for parking places to be held in advance of the ceremony. There is street parking around the church for guests.

Extended or stretch vehicles will have difficulty maneuvering and fitting in the driveway of the Church. To avoid the risk of accidents we recommend not booking stretch vehicles and especially stretch Hummers.



Wedding Rehearsals

Due to the nature of the church timetable, wedding rehearsals are scheduled for weekday afternoons from Tuesday to Friday between the hours of 4pm – 6.30pm pending calendar availability. To book a time for a wedding rehearsal, please contact the Parish office on (02) 9798 6016.

Punctuality

Your booking for the Church is for half an hour before the start time and 90 minutes after start time if a nuptial mass and 60 minutes after start time if a service. If you are late, it is possible that your wedding might not proceed. Please plan to start on time, and ensure that bridal cars have plenty of time to negotiate the local traffic.

Fr Sam Lynch
Parish Administrator