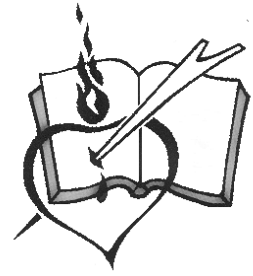


**ST JAMES PARISH**  
**165 OLD CLEVELAND ROAD**  
**P.O. BOX 1051,**  
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**Email: [osastjames@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:osastjames@bne.catholic.net.au)**  
**Website : [www.stjames-coorparoo.org.au](http://www.stjames-coorparoo.org.au)**

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Hello and thank you for your enquiry about St James' Church for your wedding. Please communicate with your priest before you can take action on this information...

**Marriage Preparation** – Some form of Pre-Marriage Education is required of all couples who wish to celebrate their marriage in this parish. This is very important for all couples and will help you in the growth of your relationship in the days leading up to your wedding. You should arrange for this preparation as early as possible and notify your celebrant accordingly. There is usually a moderate fee for pre-marriage programs.

**Centacare Program** – Centacare offers Marriage Preparation Programs in the Archdiocese of Brisbane and in other dioceses throughout Australia. You are advised to visit their website [www.centacarebrisbane.net.au](http://www.centacarebrisbane.net.au) <http://centacarebrisbane.net.au/marriage-and-relationship/pre-marriage-education/>

where you will be able to find information and book directly online.

You might like to look at the Archdiocese website – we recommend <http://brisbanecatholic.org.au/life/marriage>

**You may find another suitable course** – check with your parish priest.

**Marriage Documentation** – You will need to complete documentation required by the Commonwealth of Australia and the Church.

The Commonwealth Marriage Act requires that you give the celebrant formal Notice of Intended Marriage not more than six months and not less than one month before the date of your marriage. This is done on a special form which your celebrant will have. Evidence of place and date of birth must be produced with this notice. Normally, you will need to provide a copy of your full birth certificate.

Church documentation consists of a Marriage Declaration form which, like the government form, is designed to identify you and to establish your freedom to marry. Catholics and non-Catholic Christians are required to produce a Certificate of Baptism. If one partner is not Catholic the Catholic partner is required to make a formal application to the local bishop for permission for a mixed marriage. Your celebrant will assist you in this area.

See the checklist below - *'PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE – IMPORTANT INFORMATION'*.

**Décor of the Church** – Couples usually visit our church months or years before their marriage date. The décor of St James' Church changes throughout the liturgical season. Please know that Lent and Easter; Pentecost; Advent and Christmas have different colours according to the season. Please be aware of this as it may clash with the colours of your wedding party. We recommend you “google” the church liturgical seasons. We also recommend you visit the church (during the day 8.30am – 5.00pm; or around the mass times on the weekend) to see the changes that occur.

**Music and Flowers** - Couples usually make their own arrangements about music and flowers for the church. The Parish can assist with these arrangements. Please note that musicians and singers set their own fees for playing at weddings. NB. The strewing of flowers before a Bride is not permitted at St James.

**Hymns and Songs** –Couples are encouraged to choose appropriate hymns, songs and music that are in keeping with the dignity, joy and prayerful atmosphere of their wedding celebration. Lyrics should express a truly Christian view of marriage. Some popular songs may be permitted if they comply with these guidelines. In some cases, music that appeals to the couple may be more suitable at the wedding reception than during the ceremony. The celebrant will assist you in your choice of music. We have a list of organists and musicians, if you require this. Just ask and we will email this list to you.

**Visiting Priests** – Couples may invite a priest from outside the parish to witness and celebrate their marriage. Please make the necessary arrangements with the Parish Moderator at St James'. You still arrange Pre-Marriage Education and complete the necessary documentation with your celebrant, or one of the Augustinian priests from this parish.

When couples complete their marriage documentation outside the parish (including when the celebrant is from another parish or diocese), the marriage papers must be forwarded to the parish office here at least 21 days before the marriage.

**Wedding Offering** –There are expenses involved in preparation of documents and certificates, church cleaning and upkeep.

**Booking Fee** - There is a church booking and costs fee of \$400

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for non-parishioners, negotiable for parishioners, payable to confirm the booking. A \$50 cancellation fee applies.

**Clergy Offering** - Please note that it is also customary to make a donation to the priest (of \$350 or thereabouts) celebrating your Marriage.

This money should be paid and a receipt of deposit brought at the first meeting with the priest.

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Acct #: 006 160 102

Acct Name St James Priory

Yours sincerely

Father Francis Belciña OSA  
Parish Moderator

Per.....  
Trish Rashad  
(Parish secretary)

*PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE – IMPORTANT INFORMATION*

**Documents required....**

Recent (last 6 months) copy of Baptismal Certificates (for inclusion with marriage papers)

Copy of full Birth Certificate (for sighting by Celebrant)

Copy of full Confirmation Certificate (for sighting by Celebrant) (if you have been Confirmed)

Documents concerning change of legal name or previous marriage (if applicable)

**Information required....**

Full names of bride and groom, addresses and occupations

Full names of parents (including mothers' maiden names), parents' address (es), country of birth (if not Australia)

Full names of witnesses to the marriage.

## **Other matters....**

Meetings with Celebrant (to begin at least 3 months before the date of marriage)

\* Government – Notice of Intended Marriage, Declaration of Freedom to Marry, Certificate of Marriage

\* Church – Pre-Nuptial Inquiry, Application for Dispensation for a Mixed Marriage (if required), Application for Other Dispensations (if required)

## **Preparation of Ceremony**

\* Nuptial Mass or Marriage Ceremony (Liturgy) – decision

\* Scripture readings, texts, music, hymns, vows, prayers of faithful and other options (available on request)

\* Preparation of printed booklet (not done at St James, but samples of previous weddings available for you to peruse)

## **Marriage Rehearsal – during the week prior to the ceremony**