

## Weddings at St James

St James Anglican Church was established in 1908 and ever since has been a place of significance in the lives of the local community as people gather for worship, community, care and special services, like baptisms and weddings.

St James is an Anglican Church which encourages couples to make the commitment of marriage seriously and with great celebration.

We prepare people for Marriage, not just the wedding ceremony. Marriage is a life long commitment, made between two people and God, in the presence of family and friends.

As you prepare for your wedding, please do contact us to see if St James can be a part of your lives at this special time.

Finally, we would like to invite you to attend a Sunday morning 10am service together at St James. We would love you to come and meet us and see how the church works during a service.



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*252 Upper Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe*

## What is Marriage?

A wedding is one of life's great moments, a time of solemn commitment as well as good wishes, feasting and joy.

Marriage is intended by God to be a creative relationship, as his blessing enables husband and wife to support each other in good times and bad, and to share in the care and upbringing of children.

For Christians, marriage is also an invitation to share life together in the spirit of Jesus Christ. It is based upon a solemn, public and life-long covenant between a man and a woman, declared and celebrated in the presence of God and before family and friends.

On your wedding day as you look at each other, make your promises and receive God's blessing, your family and friends are witnesses of your marriage, and express their support by their presence and prayers

## Planning your wedding ceremony

Your first step is to contact Mrs Carol Elhage in the Church office on 03-9499 1158 or Email: [office@stjamesivanhoe.org.au](mailto:office@stjamesivanhoe.org.au)

You will need to work out possible times and dates for your wedding service to begin the process. The Marriages Act 1961 requires that at least one month's notice be given to the proposed celebrant before the marriage takes place

During your first interview with your officiating minister you will be asked to complete a detailed booking form and they will guide you through things like; who you need to consult for music, arranging the venue for your wedding service and the various practicalities which are part and parcel of the day.



St James requires that every couple married here complete a marriage preparation course at one of a number of approved Christian agencies. A list of agencies is available from the parish office. Other agencies may also be considered.

All weddings at St James are conducted according to the rites of the Anglican Church of Australia. Each couple is unique and we work to ensure your ceremony suits your personality and character, making it as personal as we can.

## How much will it cost?

At St James we aim to keep the cost to you as low as possible. As you think about your forthcoming wedding, there are many practical aspects you will need to consider. To avoid any confusion we would like to be as upfront as we can about some of these aspects.

At St James, there is a standard minimum wedding fee of \$840\*, including a \$100 deposit at the time of the first interview with the officiating minister. The balance is to be paid by the time of the final interview or rehearsal prior to the wedding.

The wedding fee covers the following:

- The use of the church for rehearsal, set up and the wedding ceremony.
- The officiating minister including preparation and lodgment of documents.
- The verger, who will prepare the church on the day and tidy afterwards.
- The sound operator, who will ensure that the readings, promises and the music are heard in the church.

Extras available are:

- Marriage Preparation Counseling – using the *Prepare* material
- Flowers for the church
- Hall for hospitality after the ceremony
- Musicians for the wedding ceremony

In cases of financial hardship, a request can be made to the vicar for wedding fee assistance