



Diocese of Newcastle

Marriage outside a Designated Place of Worship Notes

Requests for clergy to conduct marriages outside churches are becoming more common. Many clergy would like to respond positively to these requests. This usually arises out of a desire to be able to adequately respond to the pastoral needs of the couple and the evangelistic opportunity inherent in such an occasion. It needs to be remembered that:

- ⊕ the request may be important in the spiritual journey of the couple and need not necessarily be interpreted as an avoidance of faith or Church,
- ⊕ for various reasons the ecclesiastical or institutional Church may be a barrier to this search for God,
- ⊕ personal issues of integrity may be involved in the decision of the couple,
- ⊕ family issues may be the reason behind the request for an alternative site.

Guidelines

- ⊕ The Solemnisation of Matrimony Canon of 1981 is binding upon all States. The Canon states that: "Matrimony shall not be solemnised according to the rites and ceremonies of this Church ... except in a church or chapel of this Church or a church building licensed by the bishop of the diocese for the solemnisation of matrimony unless the bishop of the diocese in the particular case gives express permission for the solemnisation of the marriage at some other specific place."
- ⊕ A designated place of worship remains the normal venue for conducting marriages.
- ⊕ The standard and thoroughness of preparation should be the same whether the marriage is conducted in a place of worship or at another venue.
- ⊕ The rite used must always be an approved rite of the Anglican Church of Australia.
- ⊕ The venue chosen, together with the practical arrangements (music, audibility, movement of people, seating, etc) must be conducive to the solemnity and intention of the occasion. An alternative venue may need to be booked in case of inclement weather.
- ⊕ The couple need to be reminded that if it is a public place (eg a park) the Celebrant has no control over people who gather in that place for other purposes.
- ⊕ A standard of fees should be decided upon at a regional level.
- ⊕ the Celebrant needs to inform the Rector of the parish in which the marriage is to be performed.
- ⊕ The diocesan bishop's permission must be sought on the prescribed form (attached).
- ⊕ The marriage shall be registered in the parish in which the Celebrant holds a licence.



Diocese of Newcastle

Request form to celebrate a Marriage outside a Designated Place of Worship

Date:.....

Dear Bishop Brian

The people named below have asked me to conduct the Rite of Matrimony at their marriage outside a designated place of worship and I seek your permission to do so. I have read the accompanying guidelines and have discussed these guidelines with them.

signed:

Printed Name

Proposed date & place of Marriage:.....

Name of Parish or Ministry Area:

The Diocese of Newcastle acknowledges and respects the privacy of individuals. We advise that the information provided on this form is "personal information" as defined by the Privacy Act 1998. This personal information is to be obtained wherever possible from the persons themselves. It will be used by the Bishop to assess their request to be married in the Anglican Church and to write to the Priest officiating at the Marriage Service.

This document will be stored as diocesan and parochial archival material. It is the responsibility of the Parish to maintain accurate records of all marriages.

The Diocese of Newcastle does not give out personal information to other organisations and never sells personal information.

Personal Information

THE MAN

THE WOMAN

<i>surname</i>		
<i>forenames</i>		
<i>known as (name used)</i>		
<i>address</i>	<i>postcode:</i>	
<i>marital status</i>		

if either is divorced, then Marriage of a Divorced Person form needs to be completed and returned.

<i>date of birth</i>		
<i>denomination / affiliation</i>		

Diocese of Newcastle

Are there any children to be considered? If so, what are their ages, names and to which person are they related?

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Describe the pastoral or evangelistic issues involved in this request, eg.

- ⊕ the request may be important in the spiritual journey of the couple and need not necessarily be interpreted as an avoidance of faith or Church,
- ⊕ for various reasons the ecclesiastical or institutional Church may be a barrier to this search for God,
- ⊕ personal issues of integrity may be involved in the decision of the couple,
- ⊕ family issues may be the reason behind the request for an alternative site.

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Describe what marriage preparation is being proposed or arranged.

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Describe the proposed venue and issues that may relate to the solemnity of the occasion.

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What is your assessment of the relationship and recommendation.

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Please return completed form to the Diocesan Bishop or his nominee for permission to be considered.