

Your Wedding

at Saint Peter's Church



 **Anglican**
Church

Saint Peter's East Maitland



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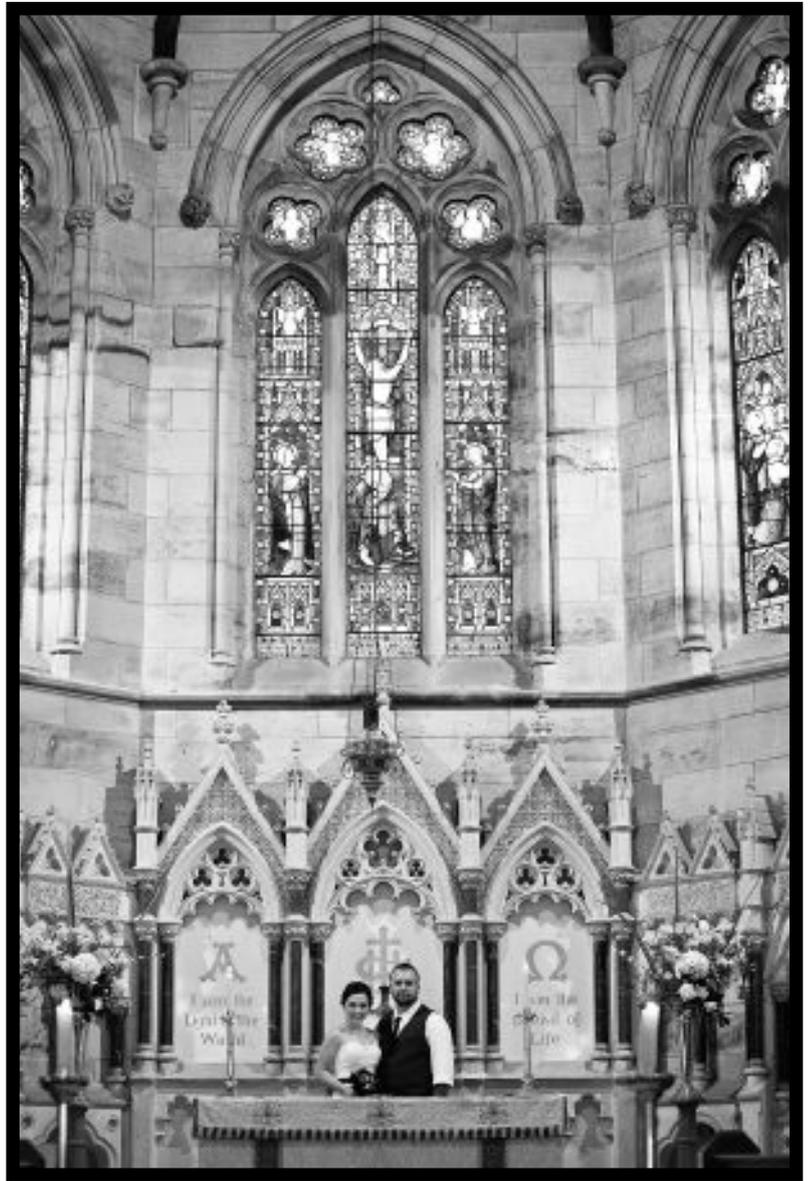
Welcome

We are delighted that you are exploring the possibility of holding your wedding ceremony in our church building, it will be an enormous privilege for us to host you.

Many hundreds of couples have been married in Saint Peter's Church since this beautiful building was opened in 1885.

About

Gothic style arches and stained glass windows sit below a high ceiling in this pristine heritage church, providing a unique backdrop for the perfect wedding ceremony.



The historic pipe organ offers an unparalleled opportunity to come down the aisle to traditional classical music or you can choose to play recorded music through our professional sound system.

Before and after the service the beautifully landscaped gardens make for the most timeless photos and we have plenty of on-street parking available around the church.

Location

William Street, East Maitland, New South Wales. We are a short drive from the M1 Pacific Motorway (F3 Freeway) linked to the stunning Hunter Valley Vineyards by the Hunter Expressway, with easy access to reception venues in the Maitland area, Hunter Valley, Newcastle and the Central Coast.

Caters For

We cater for an intimate wedding of a few guests anywhere up to 500 guests.

Price

\$1,100.00 includes wedding service conducted by a priest, music played by one of our organists, background flowers and permission for filming and photography. Larger floral packages are available on request for an additional charge. Our priests are also available to officiate at weddings at other locations in our region, the fee is \$500.

You will be very welcome here.

Choosing a Time for Your Wedding Ceremony

The normal times for wedding services at Saint Peter's Church are between the hours of **2-4pm on a Saturday**.

We are not able to host weddings that commence after 4.30 pm on any day.

Occasionally couples wish to be married on another day during the week and it is normally possible to arrange this at a time of your choice.

Please note that there are often two weddings on the same day and it is therefore expected that your wedding will commence on time.

We space the weddings out to ensure that you are not disturbed by another bridal party.





Marriage

Holy Matrimony (Marriage) is a Sacrament of the Church. Weddings at Saint Peter's are conducted by an Anglican priest and include a reading from the Bible and prayers seeking God's blessing on your life together. If you would like to bring your own priest to participate in the wedding this may be possible.

You do not need to be a member of the Anglican Church to be married here.

Content of the Wedding Service

Weddings at St Peter's use the beautiful modern language service contained in *A Prayer Book for Australia* (published in 1995).

It is important for you both to know that the marriage vows used at Saint Peter's must be taken from the Prayer Book and Church Law does not allow us to let couples write their own vows, or to alter vows.

Something Special

Couples sometimes have special requests for additional items to be included in the wedding service. We are happy to discuss these with you.



Readings and Prayers

You will be invited to choose a reading from the Bible, and you may also choose a suitable poem or reading from another book if you wish to.

You will also be invited to choose the prayers from the choices available in the Prayer Book.

Normally couples choose readers from amongst their family and friends, but if this is not possible or desired the priest will read the Bible reading and prayers. The priest will meet with you to help you to choose from all of the various options available, and you can find the texts on this website.

Music

Couples are welcome to choose music that will be played by one of our organists on our historic pipe organ, or you can choose music that will be played through our professional sound system, or you are welcome to arrange for singers and performers to be part of your wedding.

Couples normally choose three pieces of music, one to be played as the bridesmaids and bride enter the church, one to be played as the wedding registers are signed, and one to be played as the couple and wedding party leave the church.

In addition you will need to choose whether or not you wish the congregation to sing a hymn (or more than one hymn), and if so what the hymn(s) will be.

The priest can help you with these choices when you meet. Our organists have offered some suggestions for music on our website.

Nuptial Mass

We are always happy to conduct the marriage service within a Nuptial Mass (celebration of the Holy Eucharist) so that you can receive Holy Communion together on your wedding day. Just let us know and we will make the arrangements.



Booking Your Wedding

Step One:

Making a Provisional Booking

Please visit our website at www.huntermvalleyweddings.info to make a provisional booking using the online form, or contact our Parish Office on (02) 4934 5303. We will be able to confirm whether the date and time are available. We will hold a provisional booking in our wedding diary for 30 days. If we do not hear from you we will remove your booking from our diary after 30 days.

Step Two:

Confirm your Booking

In order to confirm your wedding booking please complete and return the Wedding Booking Form (available online or from the Parish Office) to us and pay a deposit of \$300 within 30 days of making your provisional booking.

Please note that your deposit is non-refundable.

You can either send a cheque made payable to 'Saint Peter's Anglican Church', or make payment by electronic bank transfer to Saint Peter's Anglican Church, BSB 705-077, Account 00040464 (please include your name in the description/reference).

When we have received your deposit and your booking form we will confirm your wedding date and time, and your booking will be completed.

Paying the Balance

Prior to your wedding rehearsal please pay the remainder of your wedding fee by cheque or electronic bank transfer. The remainder of the fee is as follows:

Wedding in Saint Peter's Church:

\$800 (total with deposit: \$1,100)

Wedding not in Saint Peter's Church:

\$200 (total with deposit: \$500)





Planning Your Wedding

Meeting with the Priest

The priest who will be conducting your wedding will meet with you both to complete the initial legal paperwork and to discuss the content of your wedding service. This will normally happen three months before the date of your wedding. We will contact you to arrange this meeting, however if you have not heard from us, or if you would like the first meeting to take place earlier than three months before your wedding please do not hesitate to be in touch.

Legal Requirements for the Meeting

You must both bring your birth certificates, passports and driving licences to this meeting. In addition, if you have been previously married you must bring with you a death certificate or official paperwork relating to the legal dissolution of your former marriage.

Further Meetings

At this meeting a date will be agreed for a further time to get together to confirm all of the arrangements if this is necessary, and another date will be agreed for your rehearsal.

Wedding Rehearsal

Rehearsals normally take place in the week prior to the wedding service and parents, bridesmaids, groomsmen and ushers should be invited to attend. Legal declarations are also signed at the rehearsal in preparation for your wedding.



Photography, Filming & Decorations

Photography and Filming

You are most welcome to arrange for people to take photographs and to film the wedding, this includes the use of flash photography. We realise that this is an incredibly important event for you and we want you to have a record for the future.

We ask that photographers and people filming the service do so in a way that does not disturb the service or draw attention away from the focus of what we are doing.

If you are hiring a professional photographer we recommend that you ask other guests not to take photographs and that you suggest to your guests that they order copies from the professional photographer after the event, but we leave this decision up to you.

Copyright

You should be aware that there are copyright laws governing the filming of music. The responsibility for abiding by copyright law rests entirely with the person filming the wedding.

Decorations

You are most welcome to organise additional decorations such as pew ends. You will need to arrange for these to be attached by ribbon or elastic and not sticky tape or pins.

Flowers, Ushers & Wedding Booklet

Flowers

We provide background flowers for weddings, and the cost of these is included in the wedding fee. Please be aware that these flowers cannot be removed from the church after the wedding.

You may wish to ask us to provide additional flowers for an additional fee or to arrange for a florist to provide additional flowers.

Ushers

Couples normally select a minimum of two ushers from amongst their families and friends.

The ushers are responsible for welcoming guests as they enter the church, handing out the booklet containing the wedding service (if there is one) and helping guests to their seats.

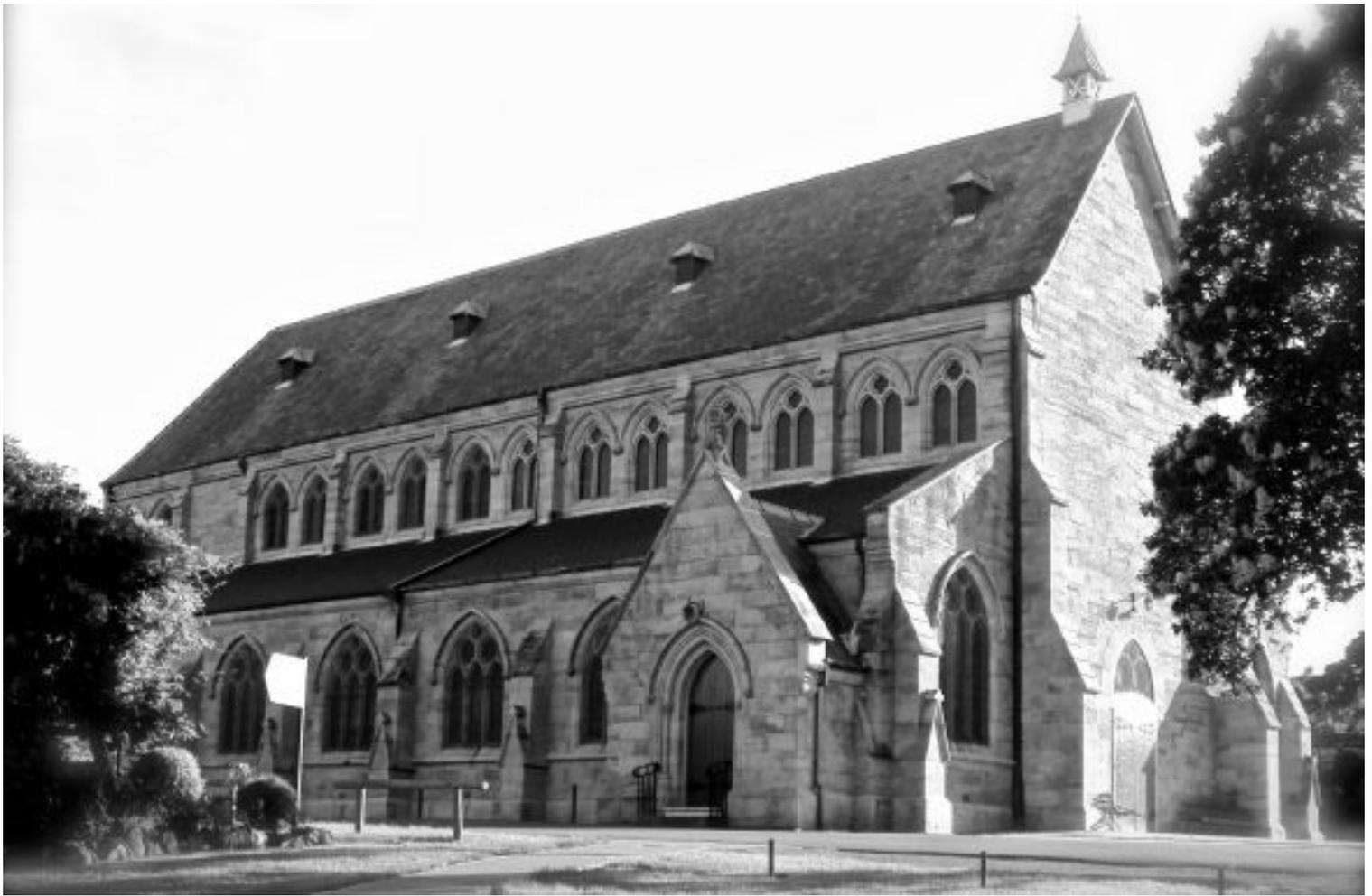
Ushers should attend the rehearsal if possible.

Wedding Booklet

Couples are responsible for producing their own wedding booklet if they wish to have one (usually with the help of a local printer).

We will provide an electronic version of the text relating to the service which can then be formatted in a style that suits you.





Please Note

Commonwealth Law

If either of you are under the age of 18 you will require a Court Order to be married and should discuss this with the priest as soon as possible after making your provisional booking.

It is an offence under the *Commonwealth Marriage Act (1961)* to fail to comply with any of the provisions of the Act and this can involve heavy penalties, invalidation of the marriage and legal prosecution. In particular, you must ensure that neither of you are under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of your marriage, and that you have not provided false information about yourself or your circumstances.

Church Law

If one of you has been baptised (Christened) in any Christian Church, with no former spouse still living, and are able to legally marry in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Australia, we will be very happy to host your wedding. If neither of you are baptised, or if this will be a further marriage for either of you and a former spouse is still living, you will need to discuss your situation with the priest.







We look forward to hearing from you! You can contact our staff on (02) 4934 5303 or by e-mail at office@eastmaitlandanglican.org or you can write to us at P.O. Box 662, East Maitland NSW 2323. For more information visit our website:

www.huntervalleyweddings.info

