



# St Patrick's Parish, Kilmore

## Wedding Policy of St. Patrick's Parish, Kilmore

We, at Kilmore Parish, rejoice in accompany you as you embark upon the sacred journey of marriage. The sacrament of marriage is a profound and lifelong commitment, uniting a bride and groom in faith and love, with God as the foundation of their union. This policy provides detailed guidance on the expectations, requirements, and procedures for couples seeking to marry in our Parish Churches—*Our Lady Help of Christians (Broadford)*, *St. Patrick's (Kilmore)*, and *Our Lady of the Way (Wallan)*. Therefore, we encourage you to read this policy carefully once you received this policy.

### 1. Eligibility for Marriage

- **Catholic Baptism:** It is required that at least one of the individuals be baptised in the Catholic faith. Should either party have been baptised outside the Catholic Church, they must present a valid baptismal certificate.
- **Freedom to Marry:** Both parties must be free from any previous marriages. In the event that either individual has been previously married, a declaration of nullity (annulment) must be obtained before proceeding with the wedding.
- **Age Requirement:** Both parties must meet the legal age requirements for marriage as specified by civil law, typically 18 years or older.

### 2. Required Documents

The following documents must be submitted as part of the marriage preparation process:

- **Baptismal Certificates:** Current certificates (within six months) from the parish of Baptism for both the bride and groom, provided they were baptised. For non-Christian parties, this requirement is not applicable.
- **Confirmation Certificates:** Current certificates (within six months) from the parish of confirmation for both parties, if they have been confirmed.
- **Birth Certificates:** Copies of both parties' birth certificates. If submitted as photocopies of the original birth certificate, they must be certified by an authorised person such as a Catholic Priest (authorised marriage celebrant), a justice of the peace, barrister, solicitor, or a member of the Australian Federal Police or the police force of a State or Territory.

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E: kilmore@cam.org.au  
P: 37 Sutherland Street, Kilmore Vic 3764

Kilmore – St Patrick  
Broadford – Our Lady Help of Christians  
Wallan – Our Lady of the Way  
Wandong – St Michael

- **Driver's Licence or Passport:** Photocopies of the driver's licence or passport for both parties. These copies must be certified by an authorised individual as listed above.
- **Pre-Marriage Preparation Course:** All couples are required to attend and complete an Archdiocesan-approved marriage preparation course (e.g., Smart Loving or a similar program). A certificate of completion must be provided.

### 3. Marriage Preparation

- **Marriage Preparation Meeting:** Couples must meet with the parish priest, or their chosen celebrant (Catholic Priest or Deacon), several times in the lead-up to the wedding. These meetings will focus on the sacrament of marriage and will assist in preparing the couple for the liturgy of the ceremony.
- **Marriage Preparation Course:** As part of the preparation process, all couples are required to attend a marriage preparation program, such as Smart Loving or an equivalent course. These programs are designed to deepen understanding of the sacred nature of marriage and equip couples with the necessary tools for a successful and lasting relationship.

### 4. Wedding Ceremony Details

- **Ceremony Options**
  - **Full Nuptial Mass:** For couples where both parties are Catholic, a full Nuptial Mass, which includes the Liturgy of the Eucharist, may be celebrated.
  - **Without Mass Ceremony:** If one party is not Catholic, the ceremony will be a wedding service without the celebration of Mass.
- **Witnesses:** Two witnesses, each aged 18 or older, are required. The witnesses will sign the marriage register and the official certificate.
- **Music:** Music for the ceremony must reflect the sacred nature of the sacrament and is subject to approval by the Parish Priest. The Church is a sacred place of worship, and therefore, only sacred hymns or classical instrumental music are permitted. Secular music is not appropriate for this occasion. The couple must inform the Parish Office or the Parish Priest of whether they intend to use live or recorded music.
- **Readings:** Couples are encouraged to select appropriate scripture readings for their ceremony. The Celebrant will provide a list of suggested readings or may assist in the selection of readings in consultation with the couple.

- **Flowers and Decorations:** Flowers should be modest and in good taste. Decorations may not obstruct the altar or interfere with the liturgical space. Kindly coordinate all flower arrangements and decoration plans with the Parish Office in advance.

## 5. Wedding Fees

- **Church Fee:** A fee of \$350 is required for the use of the church. This fee covers administrative and maintenance costs and \$100 non-refundable deposit must be paid no later than eight weeks prior to the wedding date, the balance of \$250 must be paid no later than four weeks prior to the wedding date. The bank details will be provided once the couple confirm the booking.
- **Celebrant's Fee:** A fee of \$350 is requested for the celebrant officiating the ceremony. If the Parish Priest is to officiate, this fee must be paid at least four weeks before the wedding. If another celebrant is chosen, it needs to be discussed with the celebrant directly.
- **Cancellation of Bookings:** Please contact the Parish Office in writing if you wish to cancel your booking. This is a courtesy for other couples who wish to use the church. The deposit of \$100 is not refundable.
- **Additional Costs:** Any costs related to music, flowers, or other services are the responsibility of the couple. Please consult the Parish Office for details regarding any additional arrangements.

## 6. Special Circumstances

- **Marriage Between a Catholic and a Non-Catholic:** Marriages between a Catholic and a non-Catholic are permitted. However, the Catholic party must promise to do their best to raise any children born of the marriage in the Catholic faith. Special permission and dispensations must be sought from the diocesan Bishop.
- **Marriage after Divorce:** If either party has previously been married, a declaration of nullity (annulment) must be obtained before the wedding can be scheduled. We kindly request that you contact the Parish Office for assistance in initiating the annulment process.

## 7. Additional Policies

- **Dress Code:** While the parish does not impose a strict dress code, we respectfully ask that couples and their guests dress modestly and in a manner that reflects the sacred nature of the ceremony.

- **Confetti (Petals):** The use of confetti or artificial petals is not permitted within the church. However, natural flower petals may be used outside the church, provided they are 100% authentic flower petals (no rice, paper, or plastic petals).
- **Refreshments:** The consumption of food or alcoholic beverages is not permitted inside the church or on the premises. Refreshments may only be served in the Parish Hall, subject to prior booking and arrangement with the Parish Office.
- **Photography and video:** Professional photographers and video cameras are permitted as long as the equipment and movement it does not distract the celebrant, bridal couple or guests. The photographer and/or video operator will need to consult with the celebrant prior to the ceremony as to what is expected of them.
- **Marriage Certificate:** After the ceremony, a Catholic marriage certificate will be issued. Additionally, the couple is responsible for obtaining a civil marriage certificate from Births, Deaths and Marriages Victoria.

It is our privilege to assist you in preparing for this sacred and joyous occasion. We trust that the preparation process will not only strengthen your relationship but also deepen your faith, allowing you to live out your vocation as a married couple. Should you have any questions or wish to begin the marriage preparation process, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Office at 03 5782 1084 (Mon, Wed, Fri / 9:30 am - 4:30 pm).

Thank you for your attention to this policy. May God bless you abundantly as you prepare for your wedding day and a life of love and faith together.

Yours faithfully in Christ,

**St. Patrick's Parish, Kilmore**



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