



# HOLY MATRIMONY AT CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL





Cover Photo & Photo this page: Mark Budworth, Softlight Photography

## SOLEMNIZATION OF HOLY MATRIMONY AT CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Welcome to Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver. We are pleased that you have chosen this Christian community to discuss your wedding plans. This brochure is designed to provide information about having your wedding at a Christian Church. These are official policies and arrangements in accordance with the Canon Law of the Anglican Church of Canada, the Diocese of New Westminster and of Christ Church Cathedral.

### Frequently Asked Questions:

*1. Do I have to be a member of the Church to be married there?* Yes. The Cathedral's motto *Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Minds* expresses this parish's invitation to all to come and find a spiritual home and Christian community here. For us, marriage in a church is a sign of commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the mission of the church. We therefore welcome all who are serious about deepening their Christian faith and making a relationship with the Anglican Church. We expect the same seriousness, and offer the same welcome, to couples who are planning their weddings here. If your faith is part of your life, and you want to develop a relationship with the Anglican Church — as evidenced by regular participation in Sunday worship and by making a commitment

to the work of the church — you are welcome to have your wedding at the Cathedral. If you are not already a member of the Cathedral we will be happy to include you on the parish list. If however, you are simply looking for a ‘nice’ location for your wedding, we encourage you to find a secular setting where your values can be expressed.

*2. Are there any date restrictions?* Yes. Weddings are not scheduled on Sundays, during Lent, Holy Week (the week before Easter), and Christmas Day.

*3. Can we rent the church for our wedding?* No. The focus of our weddings is on thanksgiving to God for the gift of the marriage and prayer for the couple being married. The wedding service is one that is authorized by the Anglican Church of Canada for the solemnization of holy matrimony or for the blessing of same sex unions in the diocese of New Westminster. Cathedral clergy are the presiding ministers of all weddings here.

## WHAT IS MARRIAGE?

The Declaration of Marriage from the Canon Law of the Anglican Church of Canada reads:

*We hereby declare that we intend to enter into marriage which we acknowledge to be a union in faithful love, to the exclusion of all others on either side, for better or for worse, until we are separated by death.*

*We undertake to prepare ourselves for the exchange of vows at our wedding, recognizing that by this mutual exchange our union in marriage will be established.*

*We intend to strive thereafter to fulfil the purposes of marriage: the mutual fellowship, support, and comfort of one another, the procreation (if it may be) and the nurture of children, and the creation of a relationship in which sexuality may serve personal fulfilment in a community of faithful love.*

Our expectation is that any couple wishing to be married in the Church will be able to affirm this understanding of marriage or be willing to discuss their reservations with the clergy. If at the end of this discussion you do not consider yourselves to be Christians, or to hold the Christian view of marriage, it is more honest to arrange for a civil marriage, instead of having your marriage solemnized with the Church.



### MARRIAGE PREPARATION:

All couples being married at the Cathedral are required to participate in a pre-marriage workshop. Each workshop is designed to give a couple some time to work on their relationship and explore their mutual understanding of a variety of issues. These include: communication, financial planning, household chores, sex, children, past relationships, and continuing family commitments.

In addition, couples will have at least two meetings with their priest to help them prepare for the service, and for the marriage that follows.

### BEFORE THE WEDDING

**Scheduling:** Please contact the Cathedral Parish Administrator, at 604.682.3848 to request your preferred date. In the Anglican Church, it is required that a minimum of thirty days notice be given before the proposed wedding date. Sixty days notice is preferable to allow time for preparation. Dates will be accommodated only as the Cathedral calendar permits. The initial contact with the Cathedral should be made by the couple themselves, and not by other members of the family.

**Marriage Licence:** All marriages require a valid marriage licence. Please bring the marriage licence to the Cathedral office at least two weeks before the wedding. For information about how to apply for a BC marriage licence, call 1-800-663-8328 or visit [www.vs.gov.bc.ca](http://www.vs.gov.bc.ca)

**Same-Sex Couples:** The Cathedral is one of a number of parishes within the Diocese of New Westminster to offer the rite of blessing for same-sex relationships. At this time, Anglican Clergy are not permitted to act as the minister of marriage (you will need a Marriage Commissioner) but blessings of civil unions are encouraged. The Cathedral's Park Room is available to book same sex civil marriage ceremonies.

## PLANNING THE WEDDING SERVICE

**Liturgy:** Couples are offered a choice between the liturgy found within the *Anglican Book of Alternative Services* or the service from the *Book of Common Prayer*. The service will include several readings and prayers, and you may choose to have a celebration of the Eucharist (Holy Communion) as part of your marriage service. Readings included in the ceremony should be selected thoughtfully; here are some examples of readings suitable for marriage services:

*Old & New Testament:* Genesis 1:27-31, Romans 12:1-2, 9-13, 1 Corinthians 13, Ephesians 3:14-19, Colossians 3:12-17, or 1 John 4:7-12.

*Psalms:* 67, 112:1, 148:1-6, or 150.

*Gospel Readings:* Matthew 5:1-10, Matthew 22:35-40, Mark 10:6-9, John 2:1-11 or John 15:9-12.

**Music:** The Cathedral has a fine tradition of organ and choral music. Our Organist & Director of Music will help you coordinate the music for your service. Music consultations and the services of the organist are included in the wedding fee. However, if you wish to have additional music, such as a soloist, instrumentalist or choir, there will be additional fees.

**Decorations:** The Cathedral does not need to be decorated for your wedding. There will be flowers in the Cathedral (your wedding fee ensures this), and the

*Photo: Mark Budworth, Softlight Photography*





Cathedral Flower Coordinator will ask you for your choices of flowers and colours. The Cathedral takes responsibility for the purchase and arrangement of flowers and they will remain in the church following the wedding. The flowers will be part of your gift to the Cathedral in thanksgiving to God for your marriage.

Worship furniture and fixtures in the church: Font, Altar, Ambo, Tables, Candles are an essential part of the church building and are not to be altered or moved.

Pew markers and extra standards of flowers are available at extra cost, and other decorations or fixtures may be used but only with the approval of the priest. Confetti, rice or flower petals are NOT permitted anywhere inside or outside the church building.

**Photographs:** Flash photography is permitted as the wedding party enters the church; signs the register, and leaves the church. Photo sessions in the church are limited to 30 minutes after the ceremony. Taking photographs is NOT permitted during the ceremony as the service is an offering of worship. Non-flash cameras and videos may be used in a discreet way, if pre-arranged with the priest.

**Programmes:** The Cathedral provides a basic wedding programme included in the wedding fee. It is printed in black ink on plain white paper with a simple order of service and a custom cover. The custom cover lists your wedding details including your wedding party and music

selections. You may also choose to have an outside designer create your wedding programmes; the Cathedral will provide you with the text for your service and \$100 will be discounted from the total fee.

**Sound Engineering:** Included in the wedding fee are one headset microphone which the priest wears during the ceremony and another fixed position microphone for readings. An extra microphone for a soloist can be provided, and it is possible to play music from a CD. The sound booth is not available to outside sound technicians. If there are sound requirements beyond the services listed above, our in-house sound technician is available for an extra fee of \$275.00.

**Gathering Rooms:** Rooms are available for the bride's and groom's parties for one hour before and one hour after the wedding.

**Rehearsal:** The rehearsal is held the Thursday before the wedding and normally lasts no longer than 1 hour. All members of the wedding party should be present. If extra rehearsal time is needed, there may be an additional fee. The organist is not present at the rehearsal.

**Parking:** On Saturdays, the Park Place parkade is open for your guests, parking passes are available from the Cathedral office or from our website: [www.cathedral.vancouver.bc.ca](http://www.cathedral.vancouver.bc.ca)

**Fees:** Cathedral Trustees have set the fee for a wedding at \$1,550.00 for weddings before 4pm, and \$1,800.00 for 4pm onwards. A non-refundable deposit of \$200 is payable upon booking your date. The balance of the fee should be paid two weeks prior to the service, when you deliver your marriage licence.





## PARISH INFORMATION

Since 1888 people have met on this site to worship God and witness to Christ's love for the world. This is a place of worship, sanctuary and celebration where differences are welcomed, outreach is encouraged, faith is nurtured and arts & culture are valued and supported.

The Parish Office is open Monday to Friday, from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Wedding inquiries should be directed to the Parish Administrator at 604.682.3848 ext. 34 or email: [office@cathedral.vancouver.bc.ca](mailto:office@cathedral.vancouver.bc.ca)

Each wedding is assigned to one of the priests on staff, who will guide you in arranging your wedding at Christ Church Cathedral. The Director of Music, and the Altar Guild Coordinator may be reached through the Cathedral office to discuss any issues relating to music and flowers.

*Front Cover Photo: Jeff Ow*



**CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL**  
Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Minds  
690 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC V6C 2L1  
604.682.3848 [www.cathedral.vancouver.bc.ca](http://www.cathedral.vancouver.bc.ca)