



# Planning a *Catholic* Wedding?

## **Planning a Catholic Wedding?**

Congratulations on your engagement and upcoming marriage! We are here to help. If you are planning to marry in the Catholic Church, the first thing you need to do is engage a Catholic priest or deacon to marry you (your celebrant) or, if you are marrying in another diocese, you need a local priest or deacon to assist you with the official Church and Government paperwork (your local clergy contact).

To find a local priest or deacon to assist you, make enquiries in the parish where you live. If you need help with this text 0429 192 869

The priest or deacon will need at least 3-6 months' notice in order to assist you. He can guide you regarding Government and Church requirements, preparation of your wedding booklet, arrangements for a wedding rehearsal, and so on.

Your celebrant will also discuss what marriage preparation he would like you to undertake. Marriage preparation will usually include a few meetings with your celebrant as well as one or more of the following pre-marriage education options:



Catholic Archdiocese of  
Canberra and Goulburn

Name	Course Description	Cost & Registration
<b>Archdiocesan/ CatholicCare</b>	<p>The Archdiocesan / CatholicCare marriage preparation course is conducted every two months on a Monday.</p> <p>This session runs from 5pm to 9pm and involves each member of the couple filling out a detailed questionnaire called The FOCCUS Inventory.</p> <p>A feedback session is arranged for some time later in the month to discuss the results of the questionnaire with a trained facilitator. A complimentary 6 month check in with the facilitator is also offered to couples who would like to take up the option.</p> <p>After completing the questionnaire, couples gather for a meal and to hear some input about marriage from a parish priest and from a married couple. Time is provided for each couple to draw aside in private to discuss the issues that are being raised.</p>	<p><b>Cost:</b> \$300 per couple</p> <p><b>Enquiries &amp; Registration:</b> Ring or text 0429 192 869</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mon 19 July</li> <li>• Mon 20 September</li> <li>• Mon 15 November</li> </ul>
<b>SmartLoving Engaged Online</b>	<p>SmartLoving Engaged Online is an online Australian Catholic Marriage Preparation course comprised of 9 Lessons of approximately 1.5 hours each.</p> <p>Ideally, one lesson per week gives you time to practice the tools and form new habits over a 3 month period. It can also be fast-tracked when required. At the end of the course, you will be emailed a certificate and course report to give to your celebrant.</p> <p>Your celebrant can also use the questions at the end of each course as an opportunity to discuss your preparation with you can invite a mentor couple to journey with you at no extra cost.</p>	<p><b>Cost:</b> \$150 per couple including workbooks</p> <p><b>Enquiries &amp; Registration:</b> Ring or text 0429 192 869</p> <p>Work at your own pace, when it suits you!</p>
<b>Evenings for the Engaged</b>	<p>Evenings for the Engaged is a program run over two consecutive Saturdays (9am-3pm).</p> <p>There are between 6-8 couples in each course, private time is provided for each couple to build a closer relationship while exploring important topics. The course is presented by married couples and topics include, Family of Origin, Communication, Intimacy in Marriage, The Sacrament of Marriage (presented by a Priest), God in Marriage, Building a Stronger Marriage.</p>	<p><b>Cost:</b> \$150 including catering and resources.</p> <p><b>Enquiries &amp; Registration:</b> Contact Pru and Peter Grist at <a href="mailto:prugordon@gmail.com">prugordon@gmail.com</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 &amp; 17 July</li> <li>• 6 &amp; 13 November</li> </ul>
<b>Catholic Engaged Encounter</b>	<p>Catholic Engaged Encounter is a weekend for engaged couples run in Sydney.</p> <p>While many couples attend each weekend, no personal discussion happens within the whole group context. Personal discussion only takes place between you and your fiancé. Private time is provided for each couple to build a closer relationship while exploring the following topics: your future lives together; your strengths and weaknesses; your desires, ambitions &amp; goals; your attitudes about money, sex, children, family and your role in the church and society.</p>	<p><b>Cost:</b> Approximately \$290 not including accommodation.</p> <p><b>Enquiries &amp; Registration:</b> Call Linda 0408 162 038 or visit <a href="http://www.engagedencounter.org.au">www.engagedencounter.org.au</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7-8 August</li> <li>• 13-14 November</li> </ul>