

Planning a Catholic Wedding?

If you are planning to marry in the Catholic Church the most important thing you need to do is to engage a celebrant (Catholic priest or deacon) to marry you. Your intended celebrant will need 3-6 months notice and will be able to guide you in the matters of Marriage Preparation courses, Government and Church paperwork, preparation of your wedding booklet, arrangements for a wedding rehearsal, and so on. Your celebrant will inform you as to the 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:

Evenings for the Engaged is a series of sessions for engaged couples run one evening a week for five weeks OR over two consecutive Saturdays (9am-3pm). 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. The cost is \$150 which includes catering and resources. For more information, contact Pru and Peter Grist at prugordon@gmail.com

Catholic Engaged Encounter is a weekend for engaged couples run in Sydney. While many couples attend together, private time is provided for each couple to build a closer relationship while exploring the following topics: their future lives together; their strengths and weaknesses; their desires, ambitions & goals; their attitudes about money, sex, children, family and their role in the church and society. Cost approximately \$250 (\$370 with accommodation) Call 02 9990 3212 or visit www.engagedencounter.org.au

The CatholicCare / Archdiocesan marriage preparation course is conducted on the first Tuesday of every month (except January) at the CatholicCare office in Red Hill. This session runs from 5pm to 9pm and involves each member of the couple filling out a detailed questionnaire called **The FOCCUS Inventory**. A feedback session is arranged for sometime later in the month to discuss the results of the questionnaire with a trained facilitator. After completing the questionnaire, couples gather for a meal and to hear some input about marriage from a 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. Cost is \$340 per couple. To book in phone 02 6162 6100. Cost is \$340 per couple. To book in phone 02 6162 6100.