

Marriage Protocol

Christ is among us!

Marriage is one of the holy sacraments of the Church and was instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ at the Wedding of Cana as a sacred and joyful celebration. Marriage is in its origin the basic way for a couple to give and grow in love and together attain salvation. It is also a sacred way of bringing new human persons into existence. Consequently, marriage being a lifelong commitment should be planned ahead and well prepared. The couple should seek advice of the parish priest or the person delegated to prepare your marriage documents.

In order for marriage proceedings to run smoothly and without pressure upon either the couple or Church authorities, and marriage documents be prepared at a suitable time and ready for further inspection by the Eparchy in Sydney, it is imperative that the couple notify the parish priest seven months before making any subsequent arrangements.

Marriage ceremony must be celebrated in one of the Melkite Catholic parishes in order to preserve the Melkite Catholic tradition of the parents and promote this same tradition to future children. We, Melkite Catholic clergy, are honoured and have the pleasure to be part of this special day of marriage, as this gives the parish and the parents the opportunity to assist the couple in the religious preparation. However, if the parish appears small in size or poor in facilities, its richness certainly resides in the passionate belonging of the couple to the actual parish.

1. The couple must email the parish priest in order to receive the marriage checklist and contact him to discuss the date of marriage and the availability of the church, and the periods of the year when marriage cannot be celebrated, such as Lenten season.

2. All required documents must be completed within two weeks of the confirmation of the date and time of marriage.

3. The couple are to get advice from the parish priest as to where the preparation and the three spiritual meetings with him should take place.

4. The couple must attend a rehearsal two weeks before the marriage.

5. The actual marriage.

6. After the honeymoon, the couple are advised to inform the parish priest so that he may elevate a prayer for their new life and offer them an icon for the occasion.

7. The couple will agree with the parish priest on an appropriate time for him to go to the new home to pray with the parents and the in-laws.

Please, find below the periods of the year that are not fitting for marriage celebrations in the Melkite Catholic Church

1. 1st to 14th August - Dormition Fast.
2. 29th August - The Beheading of St. John the Baptist.
3. 14th September - Elevation of the Holy and Life-Giving Cross.
4. 13th to 25th December - Christmas Fast.
5. 5th January - Eve of the Theophany.
6. Great and Holy Lent season.