

Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral
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Music Policy for Wedding Liturgies

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding! To assist you in the preparation of the music for your celebration, please read this *Cathedral Music Policy* carefully. It is important to understand the norms and requirements of a Catholic Wedding before engaging musicians or deciding on music selections. This *Policy* is to ensure that music provided for Wedding liturgies are in keeping with the dignity of the Cathedral as the seat of the Diocesan Bishop.

Introduction

The Catholic Church provides two options for the Marriage Rite. Your wedding ceremony can be either a **Nuptial Mass** (Marriage Rite *with* Communion) or a **Wedding Ceremony** (Marriage Rite *without* Communion). In either form, the Cathedral Director of Music (CDM) will work with you to help make your wedding liturgy a beautiful, joyful, and seamless celebration.

Musicians

The Marriage Rite is a Sacrament of the Church, and so Catholic Wedding Liturgies are first and foremost a sacred religious occasion. In keeping with the norms of Catholic Liturgy, the use of live music provided by trained liturgical musicians is the policy of the Cathedral. The use of any pre-recorded music is strongly discouraged.

Liturgical musicians are experienced in Catholic ceremonies. They are therefore able to tailor music to accompany various liturgical actions in wedding celebrations. This may include covering long gaps or awkward silences with music, to ensure a seamless and professional service. *Our Lady of the Rosary* has a highly qualified and experienced team of liturgical musicians, and the CDM will assist you in engaging musicians suitable for your wedding. This may include a solo vocalist or ensemble of singers, and a church organist/pianist. The addition of other instruments can be discussed with the CDM on a case-by-case basis.

In addition to being skilled liturgical musicians, Cathedral personnel are also experienced in the use of the Church's sound system and equipment. This contributes to a worry-free and smooth service, and the use of exterior, non-Cathedral musicians is therefore strongly discouraged. However, should you wish to employ exterior musicians, this may be permitted in consultation with the CDM on a case-by-case basis.

The engagement of musicians for Wedding Liturgies is an arrangement between the bride/groom and the musicians. Fees are dependent on the number of musicians employed, and are payable directly to the musicians by prior arrangement.

Music Selections

All music for weddings in the Cathedral must be appropriate for use in the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage. The CDM will be able to guide and assist you in the selection of suitable pieces, and can provide options to choose from should you wish. Appropriate hymns and psalms, as well as dignified instrumental music may be chosen. Secular commercial music – including ‘pop’ love songs – are not permitted for use in Wedding liturgies and are more appropriate for inclusion at your wedding reception.

Please note that all music selections for wedding celebrations in the Cathedral must be approved by the CDM at least one month prior to your wedding date. This also applies in circumstances where external, non-cathedral musicians may have been engaged.

Consultation with the Cathedral Director of Music

To discuss the engagement of musicians and selection of music for your wedding service, please arrange a consultation with the CDM via email to Joshua Willard at: joshua.willard@bbcatholic.org.au or by calling the Hornsby Cathedral Parish office at: (02) 8379 1700

Before discussing the music for your service, it will be helpful to have decided whether your wedding will be a *Nuptial Mass* or *Wedding Ceremony*. This is because the number of music selections varies according to each form (a Nuptial Mass requires more music compared to a Ceremony).

With congratulations and best wishes for your wedding preparation,

Joshua Willard
Cathedral Director of Music

This *Music Policy for Wedding Liturgies* at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara, is applicable from January 2025. Issued with the approval of Very Rev. Brendan Lee, Moderator of the Cathedral