



Kensington Eastlakes Anglican Church
(Incorporating St Stephen's Eastlakes & St Martin's Kensington)

Wedding Information

Thank you for your enquiry about getting married at one of our churches. Our Minister, Rev. Adam Clark, would love to meet with you sometime to discuss this further. Here is some information that may assist you:

1. Our Church

Our church is the result of a merging of two parishes just over 20 years ago. We are the Anglican Church for the inner south and east Sydney suburbs of Kensington, Rosebery, Eastlakes and Mascot.

We meet in two different venues each Sunday morning:

- 9am at St Stephen's Eastlakes (6 Harry Street)
- 10:30am at St Martin's Kensington (105 Todman Avenue)

Our members are of all different ages and backgrounds but share a common faith in Jesus. We strive to be a friendly and welcoming church.

Note that the church at St Stephen's Eastlakes caters for smaller weddings (maximum of approx. 80 people) with a hall that can fit the same number for morning or afternoon tea. The church at St Martin's Kensington is able to accommodate larger weddings (maximum of approx. 180 people using existing seating). The St Martin's hall and grounds are also available for morning or afternoon tea after the ceremony.

2. Availability & Booking

Our church has regular groups that use the facilities (other churches and community groups) so availability for weddings is somewhat limited. Saturday mornings are sometimes available. Saturday afternoons (from 1pm onwards) and Sunday afternoons (from 2pm) are often possible. On weekdays, the facilities are not normally available. Note that it is best to pass on your request for your wedding date more than 6 months beforehand to give the best chance of availability.

3. The Minister & Preparation Course

Our Minister would be happy to meet with you and discuss the possibility of you having your wedding at one of our churches. Couples are encouraged to first join us one Sunday morning for a church service – where they can get a feel for our church, view the facilities and then briefly meet with our Minister. Alternatively, couples can arrange to meet our minister and view the facilities at another mutually suitable time.

Couples that decide to proceed with a wedding booking need to commit to a short marriage preparation course of 4 sessions (approx. 60 mins each). We use the well-known 'Prepare Course' (www.prepare-enrich.com.au/for-couples/). This course involves an online questionnaire and some discussion of the results –

with a workbook that gives you some ideas to improve your relationship in areas that may need some growth. Many couples have found this course extremely helpful. Note that after these preparation sessions there would also be a wedding rehearsal.

4. The Ceremony

As we are an Anglican Church the wedding rites used must be '*The Rites of the Anglican Church in Australia*'. This liturgy is biblically based and very well known. Some of it dates to the 16th century Reformation and some of it predates this by hundreds of years. Our Minister will give you a copy of this liturgy during the preparation course and will be able to answer any questions you have. The actual wedding ceremony will often be approximately 35-40 minutes in length (dependent upon music selection).

Having your wedding ceremony at one of our churches with your own Protestant Minister or Pastor is theoretically possible – but approval must first be given by our Minister. Note that the re-marriage of divorced persons and holding a wedding ceremony outside of Anglican Church property both require the consent of our regional Bishop.

5. Costs

Please note that the cost for weddings includes the 4-session preparation course with our Minister, the rehearsal, the use of the church on the day, and the cost of the Minister as a celebrant for the ceremony. The total costs are:

St Stephen's Eastlakes: \$550 St Martin's Kensington: \$770

A \$100 deposit is required to secure your booking. We offer a 20% discount on the total price for couples who have been approved to use their own Protestant Minister / Pastor. We are not able to provide fresh flowers for the service but you are welcome to arrange a florist to set up floral displays at some time before the service.

If you would like to hire a church hall and/or grounds for a morning tea or afternoon tea after the ceremony the extra costs are:

St Stephen's Eastlakes: \$55 per hour (minimum 2-hour rental).

St Martin's Kensington: \$77 per hour (minimum 2-hour rental).

Please contact our Minister (Rev. Adam Clark) if you have questions, if you would like to view the facilities or if you are interested in proceeding with a booking.

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