

Q: Can members of other Christian churches use St Aidan's for their wedding?

A: Yes.

Q: Does St Aidan's allow Ministers of other religions to marry couples in the Church?

A: No.

Q: Does your church open to non-Christians for weddings?

A: *St Aidan's offers Christian marriage services. When joining together in matrimony and being married at St Aidan's church you do need to be a practicing Christian and have a faith. You also need to be married through the Anglican Rite. We do not hire our Church out as a venue. Should you wish to become a Parishioner of St Aidan's one of the members of St Aidan's Clergy will be happy to discuss the steps of marriage through the Anglican Faith with you.*

Q: Is the bridal car able to stop right outside the church?

*The bridal car will drive in the car park driveway on Ascot Ave (see map) and come in between the Church and the hedge to park in front of the main entrance to the church. The other cars in the bridal party can park between the Church and the hedge, behind the bridal car.*



Q: How many car parks does St Aidan's have?

A: *St Aidan's has 27 parks plus 2 disabled in the car park beside the Church, plus 9 parks and 2 disabled parks in the car park beside the Hall (access from Remuera Road, and there is plenty of parking on the street.*

Q: How many guests can the church seat?

A: *223 in the body of the church and an additional 112 at the back and two side pews.*

Q: Can you ring the church bells for us at the beginning or end of the service?

A: *The Front of House Manager will be busy organising other aspects of the wedding so it will need someone from your party, who is already trained, to ring the bell.*

Q: Do you have fresh flowers in the church?

A: *With the exception of the six weeks before Easter, there are always flowers in church - two arrangements at the cross in the front, and one in the Gathering area, as you enter the church. These are usually silk flowers with fresh foliage and always look good. They are included in the price of the wedding booking. If they are replaced with fresh flowers at your expense, the silk flower arrangements need to be replaced before you leave. If you would like to have fresh flowers, I would suggest having a fresh arrangement in front of the altar where you will be standing. You could organise this with the florist doing your bouquet, and arrange for someone to take it home for you afterwards.*

Q: Can we use our own candles as part of the wedding ceremony?

A: *Yes. However, there is a concern relating to wax on the carpet and furniture. Please discuss with the Office; you will need to show you have holders for your candles that adequately minimise the possibilities of spillage. There is a \$50 bond which will be repaid if there are no spills.*

Q: We have already got the marriage certificate from the Civil Service Department of China but we would like our marriage to be blessed in St Aidan's during a traditional Christian wedding ceremony. Is this possible?

A: *Yes - normal fees apply.*

Q: What time can we get in to the church on the morning of our wedding in order to decorate it and test the sound systems?

A: *The church is opened one hour before the start of the wedding, so set up and decoration can be completed at that time. This has proved to provide ample time for most couples in the past. If you would like to arrange for the church to be opened earlier, talk to the Parish Administrator to see if it is possible. If the church is open for longer than the agreed time there is a cost implication of \$100 per hour or part thereof.*

Q: Are we able to access the church (and the hall) the night before to set up the decorations?

A: *The church is open for 1½ hours for your rehearsal at the time agreed the evening before the wedding is due to take place. Set up and decoration can be completed at that time if there are no other events at the church between the time of your rehearsal and the time of your wedding. Note that the price quoted for using the church for your wedding assumes that you will be using it for 1½ hrs for the rehearsal. If the church is open for longer than the specified time there is a cost implication of \$100 per hour or part thereof. If you would like to decorate the hall, it can be done prior to your reception as part of the 'set up' time which needs to be booked as part of the hall hire time.*

Q: Will ours be the only wedding on the day?

A: *St Aidan's reserves the right to use the church for a second wedding outside your booked hours. If you want exclusive use of the church on the day, additional fees apply. We'll be as helpful as we can.*

Q: Can we decorate the church with helium balloons?

*A: As of January 2017, helium balloons may not be used within the church or Gathering Area.*

Q: We would like to take communion together after the signing of our register. Do you have a communion chalice we could use?

*A: Your Minister should speak with St Aidan's clergy about such a possibility.*

Q: Why do you need the marriage licence 2 weeks before the wedding?

*A: St Aidan's very much wants your wedding to be as wonderful as possible. To this end, we do all that we can to ensure that the administrative aspects of the preparation aren't a cause for distress - and we like to learn from previous mistakes! In the past we have spotted an error in the marriage licence paperwork. Due to the BDMs office's high workload, it can take up to a week to issue a corrected licence - and if there is an error in the licence, the marriage is null and void. In another instance, the public ceremony went ahead on the Saturday but the couple were legally married on the Monday. So there is no legal obligation for your licence to be seen by us; we simply want to be helpful in ensuring the best possible experience for you.*

Q: We have a guest who knows how to run a sound desk - do we still need a Front of House Manager?

*A: That's a big question! Firstly, please be aware that only the Front of House Manager is permitted to run the devices on the sound system desk. At the same time, it's worth mentioning that no outside connections to any device on the sound system desk is permitted. So the Front of House Manager is a fairly vital part of the technology involved in the service! He or she does a load more as well - they represent St Aidan's in clergy's absence; they are responsible for opening and securing the church; they show any photos you would like projected up on the big screens around the church; they put everything away after the service; they check for any lost items after you've gone and they liaise with the Minister to make sure you have the best day possible.*

Q: Are you able to play music from my iPod?

*A: As long as the songs/playlists are clearly labelled on your iPod, yes we are able to play songs during your ceremony.*

Q: Is the piano a grand piano?

*Q: No, the piano is an upright.*

Q: Do you have an electronic piano?

*A: Yes - we have a Yamaha Clavinova.*

Q: Do you allow another organist to play the organ?

*A: Please contact the office with information regarding your organist's credentials.*

Q: We are in the process of choosing songs for our big day and wanted to ask you how this would work? Are we able to choose the songs we would like played leading up to the ceremony and most importantly the song I would like to walk up the aisle to?

*A: This is a matter for the Minister of your wedding to decide. The "Front of House Manager" will play whatever you give them.*

Q: Are microphones for the singers in the music team provided as part of the ceremony?

*A: We have the ability to take up to 3 inputs into our sound system (in addition to two lapel mics). If you have several musicians as part of your wedding ceremony, they will need to bring their own sound mixers and amps and set them up independent of the Church's sound system. Guitarists should bring their own D.I. box.*

Q: Will a mic for the Minister be provided?

*A: Yes, there is a lapel microphone for the Minister and also a handheld cordless mic.*

Q: I have a concern that, when playing music via stereo system, the sound can get lost and isn't evenly distributed from middle to the back of the church, which normally happens in large high ceiling structures... How can I know if using the stereo will work perfectly fine in this case? Are there speakers and set ups throughout the church that allows loud and even music?

*A: We have a church sound system set up – all you need to do is bring a USB stick with the music on it in MP3 format and it will play. If you want to test it out beforehand, please contact the office to see what can be arranged. The sound system is run using a Yamaha TF3 desk.*

Q: Does the hall have facilities where we can heat up food?

*A: Yes - there is a large kitchen with a stove, an oven and two sinks.*

Q: Does the hall have any tables and chairs?

*A: The hall has ten large tables and about 130 chairs.*

Q: Does the 'no tape, pin, blutak' rule apply to decorating the hall?

*A: No tape or pins/nails but blutak in moderation can be used. Please make sure it is all carefully removed after the event.*