



## MARRIAGE CEREMONY PREPARATION SHEET PRE-MARRIAGE CHECKLIST

1. **MARRIAGE PAPERS** – contact the Priest blessing your Marriage for appointment to finalise all your Marriage papers. Papers should be completed **AT LEAST 1 MONTH** before Marriage date.

*N.B. If you have been previously married in a Civil or Church Ceremony, your (new) marriage cannot be blessed in a Catholic Church without an Annulment from the Catholic Church Tribunal, and you must notify your Priest ASAP.*

2. **CERTIFICATES REQUIRED** for completion of Church & Government Forms:

	Bride	Groom
Baptism Certificate – obtained from Church of Baptism within 6-month period of the wedding		
Full Birth Certificate, if born in Australia.		
An Australian Photo ID (Driver's License, Passport...)		
Current Overseas Passport or overseas Birth Certificate with serial number if born overseas.		
Single Status Certificate from Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages. Tel: 13 77 88 <a href="http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au">www.bdm.nsw.gov.au</a>		
Permission from your parish to get married outside the parish (if applicable).		
Certificate of attendance of the 'Maronite Marriage Preparation Course'.		

3. **SINGERS/ORGANISTS**

You need a Singer/Organist familiar with Maronite Ceremony. Please see the list of recommended people here below:

<b>ENGLISH</b>	Grace Sleiman - Pianist	0402 907 090
	Rebecca Mansour – Singer/Organist	0452 626 720
	Briget Lahood - Singer	0410 721 415
	Antonia Khalil – Singer/Organist	0431 316 300
	Rita Michael – Singer/Organist	0423 728 402
	Ray Saya	0423 564 062
	Elizabeth Issa – Singer	0415 340 476
	Lisa Khouri – Singer	0434 732 733
	Sarah Davies – Singer	0401 243 433
	Jennifer & Angela Younes – Organist & Violinist	0466 906 190
	Gabrielle El-Kazzi – Singer	0451 066 899
	Maryanne & Claire Daher - Singer/Pianist/Violinist	0426 589 057
	Angelo Nicholas - Violinist	0402 051 424
	Maryanne Takchi - Singer	0402 704 274
	Tatiana Khoury - Pianist	0408 331 822
	Kate Chidiac - Singer	0414 989 098
<b>ARABIC &amp; ENGLISH</b>	Jessy Harfouche – Singer/Organist	0424 123 133
	Michael Nouh – Singer/Organist	0479 148 793
	Ghadi & Lara Sleiman - Singers/Organists	0404 311 233
	Thea Boutros – Singer	0426 130 140
	Claudette Milan & Charbel Elias – Singer & Organist/ Strings	0414 456 330
	Dominic Azzi (Violinist)	0452 230 930
	Monica Albayeh	0450 651 424
	Joelle Lahoud - Singer/Organist	0455 700 000
	Ella Marie Kalache	0449 082 116

4. **MUSIC GUIDELINES**

Music must be in accordance with Diocesan Liturgical Guidelines. Secular songs are only permitted at the Signing of the Registry after the Final Blessing and must be approved by the Priest.

## 5. CEREMONY PRACTICE TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

You need to organise with your church and celebrant a time for the rehearsal. Readers and all members of the Bridal Party should attend the practice.

## 6. DRESS

Out of respect for the dignity of the Sacrament of your Marriage, we ask that the bride, bridesmaids and readers dress in a way appropriately respectful for the Church.

## 7. FLOWERS – ALTAR & PEWS (Couple to contact Florists)

For WH&S SAFETY and LITURGICAL REASONS, the following are GUIDELINES for Maronite Marriage Ceremonies:

- i. No candles, alternatively you can bring an Icon to be blessed.
- ii. No tulle or other material is allowed on aisle floor or from seat to seat blocking off access to the aisles.
- iii. No free-standing vases or decorations to be placed in the centre aisle blocking off access to the aisle.
- iv. No confetti, rice, petals, sweets or other items to be thrown in the Church or outside at any time.

Generally, altar flowers are left on and for the Altar of God after the ceremony – unless arranged otherwise with the Priest and Church secretary.

## 8. BOOKLETS

Contact your parish for a copy. Please bring completed hard copy to your Priest to proofread before final printing.

## 9. POWERPOINT

As an alternative to the use of booklets, you can ask your Priest to organise a person to operate the Church PowerPoint (for a small donation).

## 10. LETTER OF PERMISSION

If you need a letter of permission from your parish priest to get married outside your parish, please contact your parish on the numbers below:

- St Maroun's, Redfern: 9318 2148
- St Joseph's, Croydon: 9744 8514
- St Charbel's, Punchbowl: 9740 0998
- St John the Beloved, Mt Druitt: 9625 8985
- St George's, Thornleigh: 9481 7388
- St Rafqa's, Leppington: 9606 9214
- OLOL, Harris Park: 9689 2899
- St Raymond's, Auburn: 9643 0345
- Hills Parochial District: 9894 9250

## 11. VEHICLES

**Motorbikes and noisy vehicles are prohibited** from entering the parish premises at Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral. It is strongly requested that **NO** noisy motorbikes or vehicles be used for escorts or wedding cars out of respect to the Church and the neighbours.

## 12. DONATIONS

For the upkeep of your Church, it is appropriate to offer a donation to the Church and a donation to the Priest(s) in appreciation for celebrating your Marriage. Some churches have a recommended donation/ booking fee for the Church. Please speak to your church for further information.

## 13. MARRIAGE PREPARATION SESSIONS

As your decision to marry is one of the most important public and permanent decisions you will make in your life, your Maronite Catholic Church in Australia requires you to participate in the Marriage Preparation Program: **“Forever and Always One”**.

This program is a compulsory part of your marriage preparation and should be completed **at least 6 months** before your marriage date.

The four sessions of the Maronite marriage preparation program are as follows:

- Session I – **Marriage: A Divine Gift**
- Session II – **Two Become One**
- Session III – **The Power of Communication**
- Session IV – **Building a Strong Marriage**

You are required to book into the Program through the website: [www.maronite.org.au](http://www.maronite.org.au) or by contacting the Maronite Chancery on 8831 0000 from Monday to Friday 10:00am to 5:00pm.

**We wish you every blessing as you prepare for the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage.**