

WEDDING INFORMATION

# YOUR DAY

## WEDDING CEREMONIES AT OLD ST PAUL'S

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HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND  
POUHERE TAONGA



### Welcome

Built in 1866, Old St Paul's is one of New Zealand's finest examples of Gothic Revival architecture. Famed for its glowing wooden interior and illuminated stained glass windows, the Wellington heritage building is the perfect setting for a traditional wedding with that charming twist of modern elegance.

Old St Paul's is located in the leafy suburb of Thorndon in the heart of the capital city. The church is still consecrated, though these days non-denominational, which means you can design your own ceremony, whether it is a religious or civil service, a same-sex wedding or a renewal of vows.

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## Our story

Old St Paul's served as an Anglican parish church from 1866 until the 1960s when plans were made to build a new and larger cathedral. This threw the future of Old St Paul's into doubt and the building faced demolition. Owing to fervent public objection, Old St Paul's was saved and extensively restored. It is now proudly cared for by Crown entity, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga. Because of damage caused by the 2016 Kaikōura earthquake, in 2019/2020 a seismic project made use of the latest engineering technologies and best international conservation practices to upgrade the church. The beams were braced. The cracks were remedied and the walls strengthened. Old St Paul's is now more beautiful than ever. Outlined below are our pricing structures and a collection of FAQs.

## Venue information

### Summer venue hire

1 September - 31 April

\$1,300.00 (incl. GST)

### Winter venue hire

1 May - 31 August

\$1,100.00 (incl. GST)

### Venue hire includes:

- Exclusive use of Old St Paul's for 90 minutes
- Assistance of the Old St Paul's in-house wedding coordinator
- Use of microphones and electronic audio equipment
- A choice between three artificial pew decorations designed by Flowers Manuela

### Extras: (Subject to availability)

An additional hour (for extended ceremony or photographs on site)     \$350.00 (incl. GST)

Use of the Old St Paul's musician (grand piano and/or organ options)     \$300.00 (incl. GST)

Bells (signal arrival of the newly-wed and union of the couple)     \$300.00 (incl. GST)

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## FAQs

### **Who can get married at Old St Paul's?**

Everyone! Old St Paul's is no longer a parish church so our doors are open for those wishing to celebrate with a LGBTQ+ wedding, or a religious or civil wedding. We embrace all faiths, cultural traditions and backgrounds, and those whose gender goes beyond the heteronormative wedding industry.

### **When are weddings held at Old St Paul's?**

Weddings, which typically take between 30-40 minutes, may be held on any day of the week, at 11:30am, 1:30pm or 3:30pm all year round.



### **What about the celebrant or minister?**

Please arrange your own preferred celebrant or minister. The New Zealand Government provides a comprehensive list of celebrants on its website.

### **How much time are we allocated exclusive hireage of Old St Paul's?**

You are allocated 90 minutes in total for your ceremony. The church will be closed to the public 30 minutes prior to your ceremony, so if you choose the 11:30am time to be married, your hire time is from 11:00am - 12:30pm. Please note that both the church and the grounds must be cleared after the ceremony in keeping with your allocated time.

### **Should we book an additional hour after the ceremony?**

Book extra time if you are planning to have a longer service or would like to have photographs taken in or around the church. Old St Paul's makes for a stunning backdrop for amazing group photographs; in front of the entrance or at the altar, take that extra 60 minutes for even more gorgeous memories.

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### **How long can I provisionally hold a date for?**

We can pencil in your preferred date and time and hold that for one month before we will require a signed contract and the non-refundable deposit of \$350.00. Once we have received the contract and deposit, your date and time is secure!

### **How many guests can attend our wedding?**

Old St Paul's can seat 460 people.

### **Is Old St Paul's suitable for smaller weddings?**

Yes, certainly! We highly recommend seating your family and friends in the choir stalls, which are right up the front near the altar and perfectly suited for an intimate wedding of up to 50 guests. And you can still make that famous entrance down the main aisle!

### **What wedding decorations does Old St Paul's provide?**

Wellington's fashionable florist, Flowers Manuela has designed three incredible pew decoration options for you to choose from. Please ask our wedding coordinator to show you these.

### **Can we bring our own decorations?**

You are welcome to bring in your own tapa cloth for instance to adorn the crossing, or perhaps ribbons and flowers to tie to the end of the pews. Please note that any items you provide must not be glued, pinned or nailed to any of the furnishings, owing to the category I heritage status of the building.

### **Can confetti be used?**

Unfortunately, we don't allow confetti of any kind inside or outside the church.

### **Can we have bells at our wedding?**

The five bells at Old St Paul's may be rung to herald the arrival of the nearly-wed (choose which of you will walk down the aisle to meet the other), and then again as the married

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couple leaves the church. The Guild of Bellringers can add a truly iconic touch of pure tradition to your day. Please note, there is an additional charge for this service.

### **What about the music?**

Our official musician is available to play your choice of music, on either the organ or grand piano. Together with the musician, you can arrange all aspects of music for your ceremony. Choose pieces you would like, or if you are uncertain, our musician is only too happy to help with a selection. Please note, there is an additional charge for this service. Alternatively, you are welcome to make use of our in-house sound system, which can play music from most electronic devices.

### **Can we bring our own musicians and/or singers?**

Of course, no problem. Please discuss your plans and requirements with our wedding coordinator.

### **Are we able to have a rehearsal?**

As part of your hireage, and with the wedding coordinator in attendance, Old St Paul's offers a complimentary 60-minute rehearsal. Please note, the church does remain open to the public during the rehearsal, but we do close off the main aisle so you can have a run-through of the procession and recession. Bring your shoes to practice that momentous entrance and exit!

### **Who needs to be at the rehearsal?**

Our wedding coordinator will run the rehearsal together with your celebrant/minister. It's important that you bring along everyone who will be directly involved with the ceremony including the full wedding party, any junior members such as flower and/or page children, parent(s) or guardian(s), and friends and family members. Have those who will be doing readings on the day also attend the rehearsal.

### **How many parks are available in the church grounds?**

There are up to five car parks available to you for your rehearsal and wedding day. These are strictly allocated (See page 7). Note, you may want to consider one for your

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celebrant/minister, and/or for your photographer and/or videographer. We have two reserved parks allocated to anyone with a disability and there is plenty of off-street parking in the area.

**What are the wedding coordinator’s responsibilities?**

Our wedding coordinator will ensure your time at Old St Paul’s is relaxed and stress-free, at the rehearsal and on the day. Come the ceremony, our wedding coordinator greets all those involved, cues in the bridal party, the musician, the bell ringers, and celebrant/minister, and controls the volume of the microphones. They are there to make sure everything will happen (and most importantly, on time) just as you dreamed.

**What is the cancellation policy?**

Now we know this won’t figure in your plans, but just in case something really out of the blue does happen, and your wedding needs to be cancelled, any instalment or final payment made prior to 3 months before the wedding date will be refunded, minus the \$350.00 deposit.

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## Parking Plan

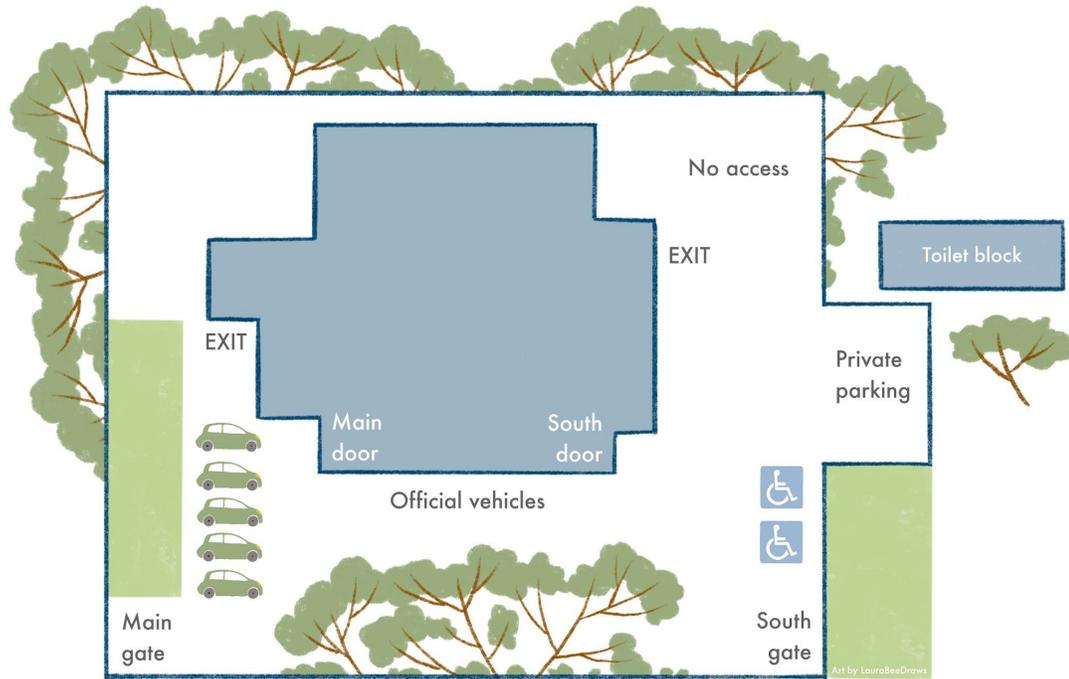




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