

Getting Married?

Congratulations!

We wish you every blessing and hope your wedding day will be full of memories that you will treasure for the rest of your life.

Evenings for the Engaged

The Evenings for the Engaged program seeks to build foundations that will help your marriage to not only last, but also to flourish; to be a lifelong source of enrichment and joy for you and your family and friends.

Marriage in the Catholic Church is a Sacrament, which means that God is invited to play an active role in your marriage and to make it a sign and wellspring of God's love for the world.

The program is presented in the Adelaide Archdiocese with the blessing of the Archbishop.

Quotes from Participants

"time to reflect and prepare for our marriage, not just our wedding"

"helped my fiancé and I speak more honestly with each other and not deal with issues superficially"

"the presenting couple were down to earth, open and warm"

"made us understand what marriage is really about"

Course Information



Schedule:

7:45pm - 9:30pm

One night per week for 6 weeks

Courses are conducted regularly throughout the year. Please phone for dates and venue of the next course.

Cost:

\$110 per couple

This fee covers the cost of printed materials and expenses. Presenting couples are not paid. Arrangements can be made to assist engaged couples who can not afford this fee.



Evenings for the Engaged

Information & Bookings:

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Evenings for the Engaged



A Catholic Program for Couples Preparing for Marriage

Program Format



Evenings for the Engaged consists of six sessions of two hours duration conducted over six weeks. The sessions are presented by a married couple in their home and are generally conducted in a group environment with up to six engaged couples. Each session begins with a talk given by a married couple sharing from their experience on various important aspects of marriage, followed by private discussion between you and your fiancé on issues raised during the talk. The session then concludes with some question time, group discussion and supper. Included in the course are worksheets to take home, which you respond to and discuss with each other before attending the next weekly session. These 'homework' sessions provide you with the opportunity to explore the topic more fully and seek clarification from your presenting couple the following week if necessary.

All couples planning to marry in the Catholic Church are encouraged to undertake at least one formal marriage preparation course so as to more fully appreciate the meaning of Catholic marriage. It is not necessary for you to be a Catholic in order to attend Evenings for the Engaged.

Course Topics

Evenings for the Engaged progresses sequentially through a number of topics:

- **Expectations of Marriage** reviews how our attitudes to marriage have been formed by our family and examines the expectations that we bring to our relationship.
- **Communication Skills** explores how to communicate effectively and intimately and gives practical, achievable ways to resolve conflict.
- **Spirituality** looks at the value of faith, relationship with God and God's vision for marriage.
- **Sexuality** discusses how sexual intimacy is an enriching and unifying expression of married love and a source of new life.
- **Building a Stronger Marriage** assists couples to identify and confront difficult issues and looks at the place of reconciliation and healing.
- **Sacrament of Marriage** considers the meaning of the wedding vows and examines the role of marriage as a vocation in the Church.

Since each session builds on the previous ones, couples should endeavour to attend all sessions in the program. Maximum benefit is gained if couples attend the course early in their engagement, allowing more time to assimilate what is learnt and in order to avoid the busy time immediately before the wedding day.

The Benefits

Three key aspects make Evenings for the Engaged a unique experience:

1. Running over six weeks, the duration of the course gives you the time to more fully explore each topic as it applies to your relationship.
2. The facilitators are married couples who share personally from their own experience. Conducted in the informal atmosphere of their own home their role is to guide you in your discovery of each other. The presence of both husband and wife has the added benefit of providing a balanced perspective.
3. The course is practical in orientation rather than theory based. A large proportion of the course is spent with just the two of you, sharing your responses to the various topics and practicing the skills taught so that you can experience the benefits immediately.

This period of preparing for marriage is an important time for you to share your dreams, discuss your differences and reflect upon your expectations as you set out on your journey of life together.

