

I WO Birkdale parishioners are living proof that true love can come around twice in a lifetime.

Albertine Koevoets, 90, and Johannes Koevoets, 93, tied the knot for the second time in their lives on September 6 at their parish, Mary Mackillop Church, Birkdale.

The couple met at Saturday-evening Mass at the parish.

Mrs Koevoets offered to care for Johannes, who suffers from vision impairment.

"I've been a nurse, so it's in me to help people," Mrs Koevoets said.

"We came closer, and closer, and then one day, during the sign of peace, I gave him a kiss.

"He was flabbergasted, but I thought nothing of it."

What was an innocent peaceful kiss turned into a couple of lunch dates and, three-and-a-half months later, a marriage proposal.

"I had to think for a minute, because it's starting a new life, but I thought, why not," Mrs Koevoets said.

"Now I can be his helper for life."

The couple had been acquaintances within their previous marriages.

Mrs Koevoets was previously married for 62 years from January 4, 1944, until her husband died in 2006 at 91 years.

Mr Koevoets' first wife was born on the exact same day and year as he was.

Mrs Koevoets said the two "just clicked" and that their relationship was "easy".

"If you really love each other, it should be easy," she said.

Being married a second time has been a huge blessing for Mrs Koevoets, who said she was "really relieved" when she met her new husband.

"This is something that God gave me," Mrs Koevoets said.

Family joined Mr and Mrs Koevoets for the wedding, including Mrs Koevoets six living children and Mr Koevoet's two daughters.

The couple will travel to Sydney shortly to visit Mr Koevoet's home city and his two daughters.

— Emilie Ng

Wedded bliss: Albertine Koevoets, 90, and Johannes Koevoets, 93, tied the knot for the second time in their lives on September 6 at their parish, Mary Mackillop Church, Birkdale. Fr Frank Jones presents them their certificate.



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jamescondonmusic@gmail.com

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