



## **DIOCESE OF ARMIDALE**

### **50<sup>TH</sup> SYNOD**

### **SECOND SESSION**

**26 SEPTEMBER 2020**

The Second Session of the 50<sup>th</sup> Synod will be, of necessity, somewhat different. It will be just one day, Saturday 26 September 2020, from 9 am to 4:30 pm, and synod members will gather at six hubs spread across the Diocese and connected electronically. The hubs will be at Armidale Cathedral, Tamworth, Narrabri, Moree, and Inverell, and with a 'Top Table' hub at the Registry in Armidale. Your local archdeacon will be coordinating the arrangements for your hub.

Arrangements will be in place at each hub to allow people to indicate that they wish to speak, and to record voting numbers. And of course the seating arrangements at each hub will comply with appropriate social distancing requirements.

While each hub will be connected to the rest of the Synod via electronic means, Synod members can be assured that they will not have to have any computer expertise to fully participate in the Synod.

Can I please stress the importance of each parish and special district being fully represented at Synod. Synod is, after all, the Parliament of the Diocese where participants have the opportunity:

- to shape, among other things, the governance and administrative arrangements of the Diocese;
- to review the operations of the Diocese in the preceding 12 months; and
- to set directions for the future, consistent with the mission and vision adopted in 2013.

Synod also affords the Diocese the opportunity, through the passing of motions, to express its views to government (and other institutions) on matters of importance at a national, state and local level.

### **Synod Participants**

Each parish or special district may send to Synod:

- The incumbent of the parish

- Other licensed associate clergy and full-time assistant clergy
- Part-time clergy as invited by the Bishop
- Elected lay representatives

Where the number of elected lay representatives in a parish needs to be adjusted due to the movement of clergy, the affected parishes have already been advised and have been asked to submit their updated list of lay representatives. Similarly, where a Lay Synod Representative is unable to attend the Synod and will be replaced by one of the parish's Emergent Representatives, then those arrangements should be communicated to the Registry as well.

### **Attendance**

It is expected that all clergy, ministry leaders, school chaplains and the Tamworth Hospital chaplain will attend Synod and be present for the whole of the time. Where this will require alternative arrangements to be made for the conduct of services on the Synod weekend vicars and ministry leaders should move now to put these in place.

The clergy and lay representatives should RSVP to the Registrar to confirm their attendance at their hub. This is best done immediately, but should be done by **18 September** at the latest.

### **Catering**

There will be no catering for this year's synod. Synod members are asked to bring their own refreshments.

### **Motions**

**Motions** can be submitted to the **Registrar** for inclusion on the business paper **no later than Friday 18 September**. Thereafter any other proposed motions must be advised to the Registrar and Synod secretaries **no later than the start of business on Saturday 26 September**. Synod members are asked to please understand that because we have just one day to deal with all the business of Synod, not all motions may be addressed during the Synod.

### **Synod Papers**

Synod papers will be despatched no later than 26 August 2020. Papers for parishes and special districts that have clergy or ministry leaders will be sent to the appropriate member of clergy or ministry leader for distribution to their lay representatives. For those special districts without a ministry leader, papers will be sent to the usual contact points for distribution to lay representatives.

Synod papers will also be available in electronic form via the login section of the Diocesan website (username: 'parish'; password: 'letmein').

### **Key Dates and Times**

In summary:

- **As soon as possible** parishes who have changes to their Lay Synod Representatives should advise the Registry
- **18 September** Synod members to have contacted the Registry to confirm their attendance;
- **18 September** last possible time for motions to be submitted for inclusion on the business paper for Synod; and
- **9.00am 26 September** the last occasion to submit motions to the Registrar and Synod secretaries.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rick Lewers', written in a cursive style.

Rick Lewers  
Bishop

12 August 2020