

**DIOCESE OF ARMIDALE**  
**PATRONAGE ORDINANCE 2013**

WHEREAS it is desirable to re-enact the law relating to the appointment of clergymen to the care of souls in the Anglican Diocese of Armidale (Diocese), the Synod of the Diocese assembled in pursuance of the powers conferred upon it by the Constitutions for the management and good government of the Anglican Church of Australia within the State of New South Wales ORDAINS AND RULES as follows:-

The Patronage Ordinance 1935-2005 is hereby repealed, but such repeal shall not affect the past operation thereof, nor anything done or commenced, nor any right, privilege, obligations or liability acquired, accrued, or incurred thereunder; nor shall it revive any Ordinance heretofore repealed.

**AUTHORITY FOR APPOINTMENT OF CLERGY TO PARISHES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS**

1. The appointment of a clergyman to the care of souls:
  - (A) in any vacant Parish shall be made in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance; and
  - (B) in any Special District shall be made solely by the Bishop.

**FORMATION OF PRESENTATION BOARD**

2. A Board shall be formed for the appointment of a clergyman to any vacant Parish to be called the Presentation Board which shall consist of Diocesan and Parochial Representatives appointed pursuant to this Ordinance.

**DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES ON PRESENTATION BOARD**

3. At the first session of each Synod four priests and three lay persons shall be elected from Synod members to form a panel of Diocesan Representatives and from this panel the Bishop shall at each summoning of the Presentation Board select from such panel two priests and one lay person as the Diocesan Representatives for that appointment.

**DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES**

4. If any Diocesan Representatives shall die or cease to be a member of Synod, or otherwise become incapable of acting, then their seat shall be deemed vacant.
  - (A) If any such vacancy shall occur within one month before or during any ordinary session of Synod it shall be filled by election of Synod.
  - (B) Any vacancy occurring at any other time shall be filled from the members of Synod by the Diocesan Council at its next ordinary meeting after the occurrence of such vacancy and such Representative shall continue in office until the next session of the Electoral Synod.

- (C) Where the process for the appointment of a priest of a Parish has begun the Diocesan members of the Presentation Board at that time will continue in office until a priest has been appointed, notwithstanding that the term of office of those members would otherwise have come to an end in accordance with the provisions of section 3 of this Ordinance.

#### **PARISH REPRESENTATIVES ON PRESENTATION BOARD**

- 5.(A) During the triennial election year for Synod representatives, the annual general meeting of Parishioners in each and every Parish for the election of members of the Parochial Council shall also elect three persons, being communicants of the age of 21 years and resident in the Parish to act as Parish Representatives.
- (B) The mode of nomination and election of the Parish Representatives shall be the same as exists for Churchwardens as are set out in the Parish Structures Ordinance or any other amending Ordinance.
- (C) If any Parish Representative shall die or cease to be a member of the Parish or otherwise becomes incapable of acting their seat shall be deemed vacant.
- (D) In the event of any vacancy occurring the Vicar shall within one month of such vacancy call a meeting of Parishioners with 14 days' notice for the purpose of calling elections in the Parish to fill such vacancy.
- (E) The replacement Parish Representative so elected shall hold office for the term expiring at the next triennial election for Synod.
- (F) Where the process for the appointment of a priest of a Parish has begun, the Parish Members of the Presentation Board at that time will continue in office until a priest has been appointed, notwithstanding that the term of those members would otherwise have come to an end in accordance with the provisions of this section.

#### **PRESENTATION BOARD**

- 6.(A) The Diocesan Representatives together with the Parish Representatives of any Parish shall constitute a Presentation Board for such Parish.
- (B) Should any Parish neglect or refuse to elect such Parish Representatives the Diocesan Representatives alone shall constitute the Presentation Board for such Parish.
- (C) Three members of the Presentation Board shall form a quorum if the Parish Representatives attend any meetings of the Presentation Board.
- (D) If there is no Parish Representatives duly elected for the Parish or if the elected fail to attend a meeting called pursuant to Clause 9(A) of this Ordinance then any two members of the Presentation Board shall form a quorum.

## **PARISH AND SPECIAL DISTRICT CONSULTATION**

7. The Bishop, prior to nominating a Priest to a Parish or appointing a Priest to a Special District, shall consult with representatives of the Parish or Special District to ascertain the perceived needs of such Parish or Special District.

## **CONVENING OF PRESENTATION BOARD**

- 8.(A) Whenever a vacancy shall occur in the care of a Parish the Bishop or Vicar-General, shall summon by 14 days' notice in writing, a meeting of the Presentation Board for that Parish at such time and place as he will name.
- (B) If a quorum of the Board shall not attend at the place and within an hour of the time so nominated, the absolute right of appointment shall vest in the Bishop.

## **PRESENTATION BOARD MEETING**

- 9.(A) The Bishop or his nominee shall chair the meeting of the Presentation Board and shall nominate a Priest to the Board and if the nominated Priest is approved by the majority of the Board so present and voting then the Priest shall be invited to accept the vacant care of the Parish and upon his acceptance of the nomination then he shall be instituted to the care of the Parish.
- (B) Before the Parish Representatives are required to vote on the nominee they may request a meeting with the nominated Priest.
- (C) If the Parish Representatives have not requested a meeting with the nominated Priest then before notifying the Bishop of either his acceptance or rejection of the position of the vacant care the Priest involved may request a meeting with the Parish Representatives.
- (D) The Presentation Board shall then be reconvened within 14 days after the date of the meeting as may be held under clauses (B) or (C) hereof between the Priest and the Parish Representatives.

## **RECONVENING OF PRESENTATION BOARD**

10.If either:

- (A) the Priest so nominated not be accepted by the majority of the Presentation Board present and voting;

or

- (B) if the nominated Priest who having been accepted by the Presentation Board fails within 14 days of the receiving the invitation to accept the vacant care of the Parish;

or

- (C) if the Priest is not installed;

the Bishop shall nominate another Priest to the Presentation Board pursuant to this Ordinance as soon as is possible and thereafter as is necessary.

### **PRIESTS EXCHANGING PARISHES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS**

11. Any Priest in full orders licensed to the separate care of souls within the Diocese

may effect an exchange of a Parish or Special District with another Priest in the Diocese provided:

- (A) the written consent of the Bishop is first obtained to such exchange; and
- (B) in the case of Parishes, the written consent is obtained from the majority of the Parish Representatives of each Parish affected by the proposed exchange.

### **DURATION OF APPOINTMENT AS PRIEST**

- 12.(A) Any Priest appointed to a Parish or Special District may hold the care of the souls of the Parish or Special District for so long as he desires and subject to there being no impediment thereto until he reaches the age at which he would qualify for the age pension under the *Social Security Act 1947* or any legislation succeeding that Act.
- (B) Any extension of a Priest's appointment to a Parish or Special District shall be for a period not exceeding two years and may be further extended for successive periods not exceeding two years but nothing in this Ordinance shall operate to extend the term of the appointment beyond the seventieth birthday of the Priest.
- (C) A parish council of any Parish or Special District in which the Incumbent Priest is due to retire may with the agreement of the Incumbent make a request to the Bishop no later than six months before that an extension of his appointment be granted.
- (D) The Bishop may request that a ministry evaluation be undertaken by an Archdeacon or the Archdeacons of the Diocese before an extension of the appointment is to be considered.
- (E) Following consideration of any ministry evaluation conducted by the relevant Archdeacon or Archdeacons, in conjunction with the wardens and the Presentation Board members of the Parish or the wardens of a Special District, the Archdeacon or Archdeacons shall advise the Bishop whether in their opinion an extension of appointment should be granted and the Bishop shall then make a decision regarding such an extension.
- (F) If there be no ministry evaluation in accordance with Clause 12(D) of

this Ordinance the Bishop shall make a decision regarding the extension of the Priest's appointment.

13. This Ordinance shall be cited and known as the "Patronage Ordinance 2013".

