

Solemn Promises Ordinance 2011

No 34, 2011

Long Title

An ordinance to provide for the solemn promises to be made before a person is ordained, licensed or consecrated, to exclude the Form of Declaration and Assent Canon 1973 and for related matters.

Preamble

A. While the Australasian Bishops Conference of 1850 agreed that the Canons of 1603 were generally binding on them and the clergy of their respective dioceses, where the Canons could not be 'literally complied with' because of 'the altered state of circumstances since the enactment of the Canons', the Bishops expressed their opinion that the Canons should be complied with 'in substance' as far as possible. Further, they agreed that a revised and 'fresh adaptation of the Canons to suit the present condition of the Church' should be made as soon as lawfully possible.

B. Diocesan Synods came into being in New South Wales in 1866 and each Diocesan Synod has power to make ordinances for the order and good government of the Anglican Church of Australia and the regulation of its affairs within the Diocese.

C. Since 1850, Canon 36 and Canon 37 have been adapted to 'suit the present condition of the Church' in this Diocese.

The Synod of the Diocese of Sydney Ordains as follows.

1. Name of Ordinance

This Ordinance is the Solemn Promises Ordinance 2011.

2. Solemn promises to be made

(1) A person is to make the solemn promises set out in the Schedule before that person is –

- (a) ordained to the diaconate in the Diocese, or
- (b) ordained to the presbyterate in the Diocese, or
- (c) first licensed by the Archbishop –
 - (i) where the person has not been ordained to the diaconate or the presbyterate in the Diocese, or
 - (ii) following a period of service by that person outside the Diocese pursuant to a licence of another bishop, or
- (d) consecrated as a bishop following his appointment as an Assistant Bishop.

(2) The solemn promises required under subclause (1) are –

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- (a) to be made in writing, and
 - (b) to be witnessed by the Archbishop or the Registrar or a person delegated by either of them, and
 - (c) given for the benefit of the Archbishop and his successors.
- (3) No oath, affirmation, promise, declaration, assent, undertaking or similar assurance, except as provided in subclause (1), is to be required from a person by or on behalf of the Archbishop prior to their ordination, consecration or licensing in the Diocese.
- (4) A person who fails or declines to make the solemn promises required under subclause (1) is not to be ordained, licensed or consecrated as the case may be.

3. Exclusion of Form of Declaration and Assent Canon 1973

The Form of Declaration and Assent Canon 1973 is excluded.

4. Permission to exercise Anglican ministry

A member of the clergy is not to exercise or hold themselves out as exercising any Anglican ministry in the Diocese without the permission of the Archbishop, such permission ordinarily being given by licence of the Archbishop.

Schedule

I firmly and sincerely believe the Holy Scripture to be the Word of God, and assent to the doctrine of the Anglican Church of Australia, an expression of the Catholic and Apostolic Faith which is determined by the teaching of Scripture, confessed in the 39 Articles and given liturgical form in the Book of Common Prayer and in the Ordering of Bishops, Priests and Deacons, and I solemnly promise to teach and uphold the Word of God.

I solemnly promise to conduct only services in the Book of Common Prayer or –

- (a) services authorised by ordinance of the Synod for use in the Diocese, or
- (b) other services of public worship which are agreeable to the Word of God and consistent with the doctrine of the Anglican Church of Australia, pursuant to the General Synod – Canon Concerning Services 1992 Adopting Ordinance 1998.

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I solemnly promise that I will obey all such directions as the Archbishop of Sydney and his successors are authorised by law to give.

I solemnly promise that so long as I hold a licence to perform the office of minister in the Diocese of Sydney, I will neither by myself nor by others permit the use of the chasuble or other eucharistic vestment in any church or chapel or other place in the Diocese in which I may officiate.

I solemnly promise that so long as I hold a licence to perform the office of minister in the Diocese of Sydney, I will administer the elements of bread and wine separately in the Holy Communion.

I Certify that the Ordinance as printed is in accordance with the Ordinance as reported.

PG KELL
Chairman of Committees

We Certify that this Ordinance was passed by the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney on 11 October 2011.

CJ MORONEY
R WICKS
Secretaries of Synod

I Assent to this Ordinance.

PETER F JENSEN
Archbishop of Sydney
18/10/2011