

Synod – May 2021

DATE: 7 May 2021

ATTENTION: Rectors, Synod representatives, wardens and parish councillors

FROM: Daniel Glynn, Diocesan Secretary | DiocesanSecretary@sydney.anglican.asn.au

The first ordinary session of the 52nd Synod was due to be held in October 2020, but was postponed as a result of COVID-19 restrictions. The Synod was able to meet for a one day first ordinary session in the Darling Harbour Theatre, International Convention Centre, Darling Harbour, on 3 May 2021. This was immediately followed by a special session to elect the next Archbishop of Sydney from 4 to 6 May 2021.

Election of the Archbishop

At its special session the Synod elected, and then by unanimous vote invited, **the Very Rev Kanishka De Silva Raffel** to be the next Archbishop of Sydney.

Dean Raffel will be consecrated and inaugurated as Archbishop at a service at St Andrew's Cathedral on Friday 28 May 2021, commencing at 7:00 pm.

Presidential Addresses

Bishop Peter Hayward's Presidential Address from the ordinary session and Bishop Peter Lin's Presidential Address from the special session, are both available from the [Sydney Anglicans](#) website in various formats.

Decisions of the first ordinary session

During the one day ordinary session held 3 May 2021, Synod passed 11 resolutions (80 in 2019) and 4 ordinances (7 in 2019). Significant among these, by resolution 11/21 the **Synod assented to the classification of Terrey Hills as a parish** with effect from 1 July 2021.

Of particular note for wardens and parish councillors, the Synod also agreed in principle that provision should be made by parishes to provide leave to members of clergy who are unable to perform their duties because they are experiencing domestic abuse or dealing with the impact of experiencing domestic abuse. The Standing Committee will amend its annual Guidelines for the Remuneration of Parish Ministry Staff to provide for **domestic abuse leave for clergy** on this basis, with the changes effective 1 July 2021 (see resolution 3/21).

The Synod covered a number of other matters at its ordinary session on 3 May, including –

- calling on the NSW Government, together with all members of the NSW Parliament, to implement effective harm minimisation methods to reduce the misery caused by problem gambling, especially via poker machines (resolution 9/21)
- amending the Diocesan Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations to make explicit that diocesan organisations should be expressly permitted to pursue their purposes in a manner that advances the broader charitable purposes of the Diocese (resolution 2/21)
- passing the *Consecration of the Archbishop of Sydney Ordinance 2021*, which provides a mechanism for the Standing Committee, with the Archbishop-elect, to determine who shall be the consecrating bishop at any consecration for the Archbishop-elect
- amending the *Synod Elections Ordinance 2000* to include a mechanism for the use of online ballots to conduct contested elections when necessary, and
- amending the *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995* and the *Standing Committee ordinance 1897*, to effect various changes.

The Synod was provided with drafts of proposed amendments to the *Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017* and a proposed Reportable Allegations and Convictions Ordinance 2021. Members of Synod are invited to give feedback on these to the Diocesan Secretary (DiocesanSecretary@sydney.anglican.asn.au) by 30 June 2021 (resolution 10/21).

Feedback
invited

The Synod also arranged for work to be progressed in a number of areas, requesting that –

- the Doctrine Commission explore how the theological priority of congregations being thoroughly immersed in the scriptures can be further expressed in our diocese (resolution 6/21)
- the Strategy and Research Group consider conducting research into the effectiveness of our parishes and diocesan organisations in engaging the 65% of Australians without a bachelor's qualification (resolution 7/21), and
- the Standing Committee develop a proposed form of Episcopal Standards Ordinance for consideration at the Synod in September 2021 (resolution 8/21).

The Synod gave thanks to God for the life and ministry of **Bishop Ivan Lee**; noting that while he is sorely missed, his testimony of trusting Jesus in the face of cancer and his devotion to seeing churches grow have left an indelible mark on the life of the Diocese (resolution 4/21).

The [resolutions passed by the Synod](#) are available at www.sds.asn.au/Synod.

The full proceedings of the Synod (including reports received, questions and answers and resolutions) will be made available on the [SDS website](#) in coming weeks.

Kind regards



Daniel Glynn
Diocesan Secretary