

# **THE SYNOD ELECTIONS STATUTE 1989-2018**

Be it enacted by the Bishop, Clergy and Laity of the Diocese of Bunbury in Synod assembled:

1. This Statute shall be known and cited as "The Synod Elections Statute 1989-2018".
2. The Synod Elections Statute 1963-1988 is hereby repealed.

### **3. The Electorates**

Each Parish or Parish of the Diocese shall elect two lay Synod members and two alternate lay Synod members. In the event of a lay Synod member being unable to attend part or all of a Synod Session, either of the alternate lay Synod members shall represent the Parish or Parish in place of that Synod Member for all the Session as directed by the priest.

### **4. Year of Election and Election Procedure**

The general elections of members of Synod shall be held at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners in every Electorate in the Year 1991 and every third year thereafter.

- (a) Only duly qualified persons may be nominated (refer The Constitution Act Schedule).
- (b) If the nominee is not present that person's consent to such election shall be produced in writing.
- (c) If voting is necessary, it shall be by secret ballot.

- (d) The returning officer shall have a casting vote only.
- (e) All questions concerning the conduct of the election not otherwise provided for in this Statute shall be decided by the returning officer.
- (f) Within ten days of any election the returning officer shall return to the Bishop the Mandate of Election with the names of the persons elected endorsed thereon.

## **5. Who may Vote**

The persons qualified to vote shall be confirmed Voting Parishioners.

## **6. The Returning Officer**

The priest, or if there be no priest, some person appointed by the Bishop shall be the returning officer. In the conduct of the election the returning officer shall be assisted by two scrutineers appointed by the returning officer.

## **7. Notice of Election**

A mandate for the election of members of Synod shall be issued by the Bishop to the returning officer in each electorate, who shall give notice of the election during Divine Service on two Sundays before the election.

## **8. Failure to Elect or Vacancy**

If there be a failure to elect, or a vacancy occurs, the Bishop shall appoint a person, being duly qualified, nominated by the parish council to fill such vacancy.

The person so appointed shall hold the seat until the general election next following.

## **9. Invalid Election**

In case the Council shall find any election invalid, the seat shall be declared vacant, and action shall be taken in the manner specified in Section 8 of this Statute.