



ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

STATUTES

OF

COUNCIL OF DEANS

Council of Deans, Statutes 7 November 2018

The Council of Deans

1. Duties of the Council of Deans:

- a) To advise the Archbishop on matters relating to pastoral activity in the various deaneries. (See Appendix 1)
- b) To offer advice in the appointment of personnel – parish priests, other clergy, pastoral associates, youth workers etc.
- c) To review pastoral activity through the various deaneries – times of and number of Masses and Confessions in neighbouring parishes, shared workers, best use of resources etc.
- d) The Members of the Council of Deans are to express their true opinions at all times.
- e) To inform the Archbishop regarding pastoral trends in the Archdiocese.

2. Membership

The Council of Deans shall be comprised of:

- a) the Vicar(s) General (VG)
- b) the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy (EV)
- c) the Deans from the various Deaneries.

3. Appointment to the Council

- a) Deans are appointed by the Archbishop after consultation with the clergy in the various deaneries.
- b) The Vicar(s) General and Episcopal Vicar for the Clergy are ex officio members.

4. Term of Office

Normally for five years but deans and vicars are appointed at the discretion of the Archbishop. The timing of appointment of Deans will normally coincide with the elections for the Council of Priests. When a Dean moves out of the Deanery area (or ceases to be Dean for whatever reason), a new Dean will be appointed to serve the remainder of the current term.

5. Meetings

- a) Chair of Meetings: Archbishop.
- b) Meetings will be held every three months.
- c) On other occasions as called by the Archbishop.
- d) Minutes will be recorded by a person appointed by the Archbishop.

6. Confidentiality

The matters discussed at meetings are strictly confidential. The Archbishop alone has the right to make public the matters dealt with in the Council of Deans Meetings.

Following a period *ad experimentum*, these statutes are approved by me for use during 2018.

Given at Sydney this 7th day of November 2018

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Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP

Archbishop of Sydney



Notary

APPENDIX 1

Purpose of Deaneries:

NI. To foster pastoral care by means of common action (cf. Canon 374 §2).

Better carrying out the ministry for the good of the faithful (Christus Dominus 30).

4 A kind of vital cell of the presbyter (the local Church) around which the apostolate of diocesan priests, religious men and women and of the laity working in the area or in a pastoral office may be conveniently coordinated, and thus a common pastoral action may be suitably fostered and organised (cf. Directory on the Pastoral Ministry of Bishops 185, *Ecclesiae Sanctae* I, 19, 1).

41 In view of the above, meetings can be an opportunity for those appointed by the Archbishop to various offices to be aware of and better informed regarding local needs and undertakings and to report on pastoral activity in response to such matters.

The Apostolic Letter of Paul VI, *Ecclesiae Sanctae*, 6 August 1966, implements the decrees of *Christus Dominus*, *Presbyterorum Ordinis* and *Perfectae Caritatis*:

Amongst those who assist the Bishop of the Diocese in a more intimate manner are those priests who exercise a pastoral duty of a supra-parochial nature. Included in this class are Vicars Forane, also called Deans. To this office, priests shall be appointed outstanding for learning and for apostolic zeal, but through the necessary powers conferred on them by the Bishop will promote and direct common pastoral activity in the pastoral activity in the district assigned to them. For this reason the office is not attached to any particular parish.

Vicars Forane or Deans shall be established for a period of time to be determined by special law; they may be removed at the wish of the Bishop. The Bishop of the Diocese should hear their views whenever there is a question of nominating, transferring, or removing Parish Priests in the territory over which they preside (#19).