

READERS' ORDINANCE 1988

No. 10 of 1988

AN ORDINANCE.

To provide for the appointment and ministry of Readers throughout the Diocese and the establishment and conduct of a Readers' Association.

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS it is desirable that the Readers' Association Ordinance 1955-56 be repealed

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that provision be made for the appointment, licensing, function and duties of Readers in the Diocese of Grafton

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that new provisions be made for the establishment and conduct of a Readers' Association

THEREFORE the Bishop, the Clergy and the Laity of the Diocese of Grafton in Synod assembled declare ordain and enact as follows:

SHORT TITLE

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the "Readers' Ordinance 1988"

READERS

2. Readers shall be of two categories: Parochial or Diocesan.

APPOINTMENT

3. (a) Any layperson may be nominated as Parochial Reader to the Bishop by the Incumbent of the nominee's Ecclesiastical District. Such nomination must have the endorsement of the Churchwardens of the Parish Church and shall be in such form as the Bishop may from time to time prescribe.
- (b) At the time of nomination the person should have completed or embarked upon a qualifying course of theological study acceptable to the Bishop.
- (c) The Bishop shall then require a notice of nomination to be read in the parish church and any objections that may be made to the nomination shall be considered by the Rector and Churchwardens and reported to the Bishop with their comments thereon.

- 4. (a) The Parochial Reader may be licensed by the Bishop. The Bishop may at any time revoke the licence of a Parochial Reader. A Parochial Reader's licence shall be in force until such time as one or more of the following events occur:
 - (i) Revocation of the licence by the Bishop;
 - (ii) The last day of the first session of the next Synod;
 - (iii) The appointment of a new Incumbent; or
 - (iv) The removal of the Parochial Reader to another Ecclesiastical District in the Diocese.
- (b) On the occurrence of one or more of the events described in 4(a)(ii) and (iii) application may be made in writing by the Incumbent to the Bishop for renewal of the Parochial Reader's Licence.
- 5. (a) A Parochial Reader may be licenced by the Bishop as a Diocesan Reader after consultation with the Incumbent.
- (b) The Bishop may at any time revoke the licence of a Diocesan Reader.
- (c) A licence for a Diocesan Reader shall be in force until such time as one or more of the following events occur:
 - (i) Revocation of the licence by the Bishop;
 - (ii) The last day of the first session of the next Synod;
 - (iii) The installation of a new Bishop; or
 - (iv) The removal of the Diocesan Reader to another Diocese.
- 6. The Readers shall be admitted to office during Divine Service and presented with their licence and the badge of the Diocese of Grafton Readers' Association in the parish church by the Bishop or by the Warden of the Association; the Archdeacon, the Rural Dean or the Rector, acting under commission from the Bishop.
- 7. The Reader shall return the licence and badge, which shall at all times remain the property of the Diocese, to the Registry on departure from the Parish or the Diocese, or on resignation, or on the revocation of the licence by the Bishop, or on its lapse through non-renewal.

FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES

- 8. (a) Parochial Readers may officiate at the request of the Incumbent of the Ecclesiastical District for which they have been licensed.
- (b) Diocesan Readers may officiate throughout the Diocese at the request of the Bishop or the Incumbent of the Ecclesiastical District.
- 9. A Parochial Reader shall do one or more of the following:

- (a) Read and conduct services except those parts which are designated to be said or performed by a priest.
 - (b) Preach sermons.
 - (c) Assist the priest in the ministration and distribution of the Holy Communion.
 - (d) Baptise in case of extreme necessity in the absence of a priest or deacon, but not to receive the baptised into the congregation. (Each baptism must be reported to the Rector or, during the vacancy of the parish, to the Bishop.) Each Reader prior to receiving a licence must be instructed in the method of conducting such baptisms and given some instruction in ministering to the parents.
 - (e) Conduct the office of the burial of the dead by direction of the incumbent or in the absence of a priest or deacon.
10. A Parochial Reader should also do some of the following:
- (a) Pastoral visiting, counselling and similar duties.
 - (b) Evangelism.
 - (c) Assistance in preparation for baptism.
 - (d) Assistance in preparation for confirmation.
 - (e) Such other duties and functions as shall be considered appropriate by the Incumbent of the Ecclesiastical District or by any minister to whom the Reader may for the time being be responsible.
11. A Reader is required:
- (a) To wear cassock and surplice, or alb, with blue scarf and the Reader's academic hood, if any, at ministrations in church or burial ground, unless otherwise requested by the Incumbent. The Reader should also wear the badge of the Diocese of Grafton Readers' Association suspended round the neck by a ribbon or chain. If a ribbon, then it shall be red for a Parochial Reader and blue for a Diocesan Reader.
 - (b) To conform to the customary uses of the church in which the Reader is officiating.
 - (c) To accept and follow loyally the directions of the Incumbent in all matters pertaining to the discharge of the duties of the office of Reader.
 - (d) To complete an annual return of duties performed, to be forwarded to the Secretary of the Readers' Association.

GENERAL

12. Any expenses for travelling or otherwise incurred by the

Reader shall be the responsibility of the parish where the Reader is taking duty and shall be paid to the Reader direct.

THE ASSOCIATION

13. An Association is hereby established to be known as the "Diocese of Grafton Readers' Association".

14. All Readers appointed hereunder shall ex officio become and be members of the said Association.

OFFICE BEARERS

15.(a) The Bishop shall be the President and shall appoint one priest as Warden who shall hold office during his pleasure. Upon such office becoming vacant from any cause, the Bishop shall appoint a successor.

(b) One Reader shall be appointed as Secretary by a majority of the members present at a General Meeting of the Association to be convened by the President and held within two months after the passing of this Ordinance. In the event of a vacancy occurring from any cause, the Bishop may appoint an Acting Secretary who shall hold office until the next meeting of the Association. Subsequent Annual General Meetings of the association shall elect a Secretary. The Secretary shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting.

MEETINGS

16. (a) An Annual General Meeting of members shall be convened by the President and held during the month of July in every year in Grafton or at such other time or place as the President may appoint. Other meetings may be held at the discretion of the President as circumstances may require.

(b) The expenses of members attending such meetings shall be borne by the respective parishes represented.

REPEAL

17. The Readers' Association Ordinance 1955-56 is hereby repealed.

DATE OF COMMENCEMENT

18. This Ordinance shall come into effect upon receiving the assent of the Bishop.

I hereby certify that the Ordinance as printed is in accordance with the Ordinance as passed.

[Signature]
Chairman of Committees.

I hereby certify that this Ordinance was passed by Synod on the 11th day of September 1988.

[Signature]
Registrar.

I assent to this Ordinance

[Signature]
Bishop.