



# Anglican Diocese of Grafton Registry Update

Edition 12 – November 2017

**For distribution to: Rectors, Locums, Assistant Clergy, Churchwardens, Parish Councillors, Parish Secretaries and Treasurers.**

This is the eleventh edition of the Registry Update and as usual it contains important information on a variety of topics. These Registry Updates are not only important for reading at the time of receiving but also worthwhile for putting aside for future reference. If you are missing copies from your collection, please contact the Registry and the missing copy can be sent to you.

Please ensure that all those in the above distribution list receive each Registry Update as there is usually information contained in the Registry Update that affects their role. A copy of this Update will also be sent directly to **chaplains, business managers of diocesan organisations and members of diocesan councils and committees.**

The information contained in this Registry Update is not confidential or private, so please feel free to share it with others who would benefit from knowing.

## CLERGY STIPENDS AND SUPERANNUATION

### New Stipend levels

At its meeting of 8 October 2015, Bishop-in-Council resolved that the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Wage Price Index (WPI) will be the basis on which the clergy stipend is revised each year. As the WPI over the applicable period was 2.0%, the following schedule of clergy stipends will be effective from **1 January 2018**.

Clergy role	Current annual stipend	Current monthly stipend	New annual stipend from 1 January 2018	New monthly stipend from 1 January 2018
Rector <sup>1</sup>	\$63,284.70	\$5,273.72	\$64,550.40	\$5,379.20
Priest Associate <sup>2</sup>	\$62,659.90	\$5,221.66	\$63,913.10	\$5,326.09
Assistant Priest <sup>3</sup> or Deacon <sup>4</sup>	\$59,848.70	\$4,987.39	\$61,045.70	\$5,087.14

(Notes: <sup>1</sup> includes Priests-in-Charge and Locums; <sup>2</sup> typically a senior priest in a challenging role; <sup>3</sup> typically a priest in a curacy or training stage; <sup>4</sup> Stipendiary deacons only)

### Superannuation

The rate of superannuation for clergy will remain at 10.5% of the stipend. (Superannuation will not be applied to the payment of allowances.)

### Future changes to Stipend

As mentioned above, the Wage Price Index (WPI) statistic provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics will guide future increases in clergy stipend. The stipend will change on 1 January of each year depending on the annual change in the WPI reported in the previous September Quarter. The September Quarter statistic is usually published in mid-November of each year.

## SYNODS IN FEBRUARY

You may have seen an email advising that Bishop-in-Council has considered it prudent to hold some synods of the Diocese in February 2018.

Bishop Sarah Macneil will summon members to a **special synod** in Grafton on Saturday 3 February 2018. The purpose of this synod is to consider the legislation approved by the recent General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia on the topic of safe ministry. This is important and urgent legislation that creates nationally consistent standards for safe ministry in the Anglican Church. Bishop-in-Council considered that it was better to consider this legislation as soon as possible and avoid overloading the June synod.

Archdeacon Gail Hagon, as Administrator, will summon members to a **discernment synod** in Grafton on Sunday 4 February 2018. The resignation of Bishop Sarah Macneil as Bishop of Grafton triggers the requirement in Chapter 6 of the Diocesan Governance Ordinance that a discernment synod be held. This synod also elects a Bishop's Appointment Board who will be tasked with selecting the next Bishop of Grafton.

Further information on each of these synods will be sent out to the members of the synod in due course.

There will still be the annual Diocesan Synod from 15 to 17 June 2018.

## NEW PROCEDURE – RECORDS

The November meeting of Bishop-in-Council approved a new procedure: GEN-003 Policy on the Use of Names of Dishonoured Persons

The instances of abuse in the church has thrown up many issues to be addressed and one of those issues is what to do when there is something named after a person and then later it is discovered that the person has behaved criminally or disgracefully. This policy is to provide guidance in such cases and it builds upon the work of the General Synod Standing Committee.

You can get a copy of this procedure at:

<https://www.graftondiocese.org.au/documents/policies-procedures/>

## NEW DIOCESAN WEBSITE

A new fresh Diocesan website has been launched. It is hoped that you will find this to be a more informative and reliable site that is easier to navigate. Visit [www.graftondiocese.org.au](http://www.graftondiocese.org.au) to familiarise yourself with the site.

## AGM REPORTING

The Corporate Trustees of the Diocese of Grafton have a legal responsibility for real property across the Diocese and the various trust funds. It is for this reason that real property and trusts are reported in the Corporate Trustees' audited financial statements and not in the financial statements of each parish.

The Trustees have considered the issue of the transparency of this information and have decided that while the formal reporting should not change, it would be appropriate for parish members to be informed of the real property and trust funds that benefit their parish.

The Corporate Trustees request that when parish financial reports are presented at the Parish AGM, they include a note outlining the real property and trusts that benefit the parish. While these are “off balance sheet” items, the improved transparency is considered positive.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### Bishop-in-Council

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 (new date)  
22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018  
3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018

19<sup>th</sup> July 2018  
6<sup>th</sup> September 2018  
8<sup>th</sup> November 2018

### Corporate Trustees

7<sup>th</sup> December 2017  
15<sup>th</sup> February 2018  
12<sup>th</sup> April 2018  
17<sup>th</sup> May 2018

5<sup>th</sup> July 2018  
16<sup>th</sup> August 2018  
18<sup>th</sup> October 2018  
13<sup>th</sup> December 2018

### Buildings and Property Committee

13<sup>th</sup> December 2017  
31<sup>st</sup> January 2018  
21<sup>st</sup> February 2018  
21<sup>st</sup> March 2018  
18<sup>th</sup> April 2018  
30<sup>th</sup> May 2018

25<sup>th</sup> July 2018  
22<sup>nd</sup> August 2018  
19<sup>th</sup> September 2018  
24<sup>th</sup> October 2018  
21<sup>st</sup> November 2018  
12<sup>th</sup> December 2018

If you have any submission to a meeting of Bishop-in-Council, the Corporate Trustees or the Buildings and Property Committee, please provide these to the Registrar at least 10 days prior to a meeting to ensure that your submission can be included in the business of that meeting.

### Registry Christmas Closure

The Bishop’s Registry will close on the afternoon of Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December for the Christmas-New Year period and re-open at 9am Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

### Synod

The 2018 Synod of the Diocese of Grafton will be held on 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> June in Grafton.

The 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> June are reserved for pre-synod meetings in various locations around the diocese. Details will be communicated when the program has been finalised.

A Special Synod will be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2018 and a Discernment Synod on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2018. Both of these synods will be held in Grafton.

Yours in Christ’s service,



**Chris Nelson**  
**Registrar/General Manager**  
**Anglican Diocese of Grafton**