



Anglican Diocese of Grafton Registry Update

Edition 24 – December 2023

For distribution to any office bearer within the Anglican Diocese of Grafton including its parishes and organisations.

This is the final edition of the Registry Update for 2023 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 looking for any of the previous copies, you can find them on the Diocese’s website at <https://www.graftondiocese.org.au/documents/registry-update/>

This Registry Update has been widely distributed by email but if you believe that someone has been missed who should also be receiving the Registry Update, please feel free to share your copy with them and advise admin@graftondiocese.org.au of the update to the distribution list.

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.

PARISH GUIDE

We are pleased to provide a new resource for use by ministry units in the form of a Parish Guide. This Guide is available to be accessed on the Documents tab of the diocesan website, under ‘Parish Guide’ <https://www.graftondiocese.org.au/documents/parish-guide/>. This resource is a quick reference tool on a broad range of topic areas. We hope you find it useful.

The screenshot shows the website header with the logo and name 'Anglican Diocese of Grafton'. A search icon and a 'CONTACT US' button are on the right. The navigation menu includes: HOME, ABOUT US, BISHOP & REGISTRY, SAFE MINISTRY, PARISHES, SCHOOLS, MINISTRY, DOCUMENTS (circled in pink), and LINKS. The 'DOCUMENTS' dropdown menu is open, listing: ADMINISTRATION, COVID-19 INFORMATION, DECLARATIONS OF TRUST, FACULTIES at parishes, INSURANCE & RISK, ORDINANCES, ORDINANCE HISTORY, PARISH GUIDE (circled in pink), POLICIES & PROCEDURES, and REGISTRY UPDATE. On the left, the 'Parish Guide' section is visible, including a description, usage instructions, and a hope statement. Below this are sections for 'Assets' (with a 'View Assets' link), 'Clergy' (with a 'View Clergy' link), and 'Compliance'.

CLERGY STIPENDS, SUPERANNUATION and LONG SERVICE LEAVE

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 12 month period up to September 2023 was 4.0%, the following schedule of clergy stipends will be effective from **1 January 2024**.

Clergy role	Current annual stipend	Current monthly stipend	New annual stipend from 1 January 2024	New monthly stipend from 1 January 2024
Rector ¹	\$72,106.30	\$6,008.85	\$74,990.60	\$6,249.22
Priest Associate ²	\$71,394.40	\$5,949.53	\$74,250.20	\$6,187.52
Assistant Priest ³ or Deacon ⁴	\$68,191.40	\$5,682.62	\$70,919.10	\$5,909.93

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

Superannuation

The rate of superannuation for clergy is 12.0% of the stipend. (Superannuation will not be applied to the payment of allowances.)

Long Service Leave

The Anglican Church of Australia Long Service Leave Fund has advised that the annual rate of contribution for a full-time participant has increased to \$1,716 effective from 1 January 2024.

Occasional Service Payments

As advised in the September Registry Update, Occasional Service Payments for ministers (clerical or lay) who are invited to preach, conduct services and/or provide other ministries on an occasional basis in a ministry unit at the invitation of that ministry unit, now need to be made through the diocesan payroll.

These payments increase in line with the clergy stipend (ie Wage Price Index) and as such, the following rates are applicable from 1 January 2024.

Service	Service Payment	Preparation Payment	Total Payment
One service and not more than 3 hours in the parish	\$94	\$52	\$146
Up to two services and not more than 5 hours in the parish	\$146	\$52	\$198
Greater than 5 hours service in the parish	\$229	\$52	\$281

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.

MINISTRY TRAVEL AND REIMBURSEMENT

The reimbursement rates applicable from 1 January 2024, can be found in MUP-003 Ministry Travel and Associated Expense Reimbursement. A copy of the procedure can be found on the Diocesan website at <https://www.graftondiocese.org.au/documents/policies-procedures/>

Rates for reimbursement for motor vehicle use	Current rate	New rate – effective from 1 January 2024
Use of private vehicle as a requirement of role	Fixed component: \$9,200 pa Variable component: 30 cents per kilometre	Fixed component: \$9,715 pa Variable component: 32 cents per kilometre
Occasional use of private vehicle	Fixed component: Nil Variable component: 78 cents per kilometre	Fixed component: Nil Variable component: 85 cents per kilometre

CHANGES AT THE REGISTRY

After almost 12 years with the Registry, Ms Jenny Brock has decided that it is time to say farewell and will have her last day with us on 18 January 2024. Jen has been instrumental in fulfilling many financial related roles in the Registry and in liaising with parishes on all these matters. Her diocesan knowledge, sense of humour and bubbly personality will certainly be missed in the Registry and no doubt by many of you around the Diocese. We wish Jen every success as she embraces this change.

Ms Deb Shipman has chosen not to complete her probationary period as Deputy Registrar/Executive Officer-Schools and will be finishing on 19 January 2024 to pursue another external role. We wish Deb well in her future endeavours.

This means that the Registry will be operating without a full complement of team members for at least the first quarter of 2024.

IMPORTANT DATES

To assist in tracking the diocesan governance schedule of meetings, a calendar is now available on our website at <https://www.graftondiocese.org.au/bishop-registry/governance-calendar/>

If you have a submission for a meeting, please provide relevant paperwork to admin@graftondiocese.org.au at least 10 days prior to a meeting, to ensure that your submission can be included in the business of that meeting.

Bishop-in-Council

29 February 2024

2 May 2024

29 August 2024

24 October 2024

12 December 2024

Corporate Trustees

1 February 2024

21 March 2024

30 May 2024

8 August 2024

26 September 2024

28 November 2024

Synod

28, 29 and 30 June 2024. Opal Cove in Coffs Harbour will be the venue for Synod business sessions.

Registry Christmas Closure

The Bishop's Registry will close on the afternoon of Thursday 21 December for the Christmas-New Year period and re-open at 9am Monday 8 January 2024.

May you each have a blessed, joyous and safe Christmas.

Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AMula', with a horizontal line underneath.

Angela Mula
Registrar/General Manager
Anglican Diocese of Grafton