

**Proceedings of the 2018 Session of Synod  
[Second Session of the 79<sup>th</sup> Synod]**

**FRIDAY 5 OCTOBER 2018**

Present: Clergy 108, Lay 163

Synod met in St John's Cathedral, Ann Street, Brisbane, on Friday 5 October 2018, following the Synod Eucharist at which the Synod Sermon was preached by the Most Rev'd Dr Phillip Aspinall, Archbishop of Brisbane.

**Opening**

The President, the Most Rev'd Dr Phillip Aspinall, took the Chair at 8.30pm and his Chaplain read prayers.

**Reports**

The Reports of Diocesan Council and other Reports are noted as tabled.

**Synod Arrangements**

Synod set orders of the day, gave leave for certain persons to address Synod, gave leave for the distribution of literature, and authorised the Diocesan Council to confirm the Minutes of Sunday's sitting.

**Refugees & Asylum Seekers**

The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt to move; the Rev'd Tiffany Sparkes seconding

That Synod,

1. Notes with deep concern:
  - a. The plight of asylum seekers held indefinitely on Nauru and Manus Island by the Federal Government of Australia.
  - b. That many people seeking asylum in Australia have lost access to core services and financial support due to Government changes in the Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS), and that up to 12,000 people seeking asylum in Australia are at risk of losing access.
  - c. That charities are already struggling to support destitute asylum seekers.
2. Calls on the Federal Government to:
  - a. Remove from Nauru to Australia, as a matter of urgency, all asylum-seeker children and their families.
  - b. Remove to Australia all other asylum-seekers held on Nauru and Manus Island
  - c. Reverse the changes made to SRSS so that those seeking asylum are not forced into destitution.
3. Commends to members of the Diocese for attention and action:
  - The Kids Off Nauru Campaign [www.kidsoffnauru.com](http://www.kidsoffnauru.com) and the Dignity not Destitution Campaign <http://www.acrt.com.au/dignity-not-destitution-changes-to-support-services-for-people-seeking-asylum-srss/>

*Carried*

**Clergy Summer School**

The Rev'd Geoff Hoyte to move; the Rev'd Helen Paget seconding:

That this Synod

- affirms the role of the Clergy Summer School in maintaining collegiality and in the ongoing professional development of the clergy of Brisbane Diocese,

- encourages the clergy to attend the January 2019 Summer School
- encourages Parishes to meet the financial cost for their clergy of registration at the Summer School.

*Carried*

### **Statement of our Mission**

The Rev'd Bronwyn Pagram to move; the Rev'd Dr Timothy Nicholson seconding:

“That this Synod:

1. commends the statement of mission on the ACSQ Diocesan website; and
2. notes the statement:
  - a. is congruent with the Anglican Communion marks of mission numbers one, two, three and five, with the fourth mark of mission being present in a truncated form, and
  - b. contains supplemental mission statements on worship and living as the Church.
3. supports the extension of the ACSQ mission statement on justice to read, “To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation.” This will enable the Diocesan mission statement to both strengthen its commitment to non-violent living, peace and reconciliation, and fully incorporate the fourth mark of mission of the Anglican Communion into the Diocesan statement of mission.”

*Carried*

### **Reports**

The following reports were received:

Cathedral Chapter

### **Religious Freedom**

The Rev'd Dr Josephine Inkipin to move; the Rev'd Peter Mayen seconding:

“That this Synod:

1. Affirms the view of the National Council of Churches in Australia that ‘the human right to freedom is in reasonable state’ in Australia, but that much more needs to be done by Australian authorities to aid the victims of religious persecution overseas, not least the needs of asylum seekers, irrespective of religious affiliation.
2. Considers that further attention should be given to the clarification of religious rights to ensure religious freedom is safeguarded for all Australians and that ideas of religious freedom should not be used to support religious privilege, bullying and discrimination.
3. Calls on the Federal Government to strengthen Australian efforts to help end religious persecution overseas and to receive more compassionately those seeking refuge and asylum.
4. Encourages members of the Anglican Church Southern Queensland to deepen their prayer and practical support for all victims of religious persecution, and, with the National Council of Churches in Australia, to encourage all Australian leaders, from whatever outlook, ‘to model courteous and respectful discourse in public life’.”

Debate was adjourned.

Synod adjourned at 9.30 pm.

**SATURDAY 6 OCTOBER 2018**

Present: Clergy 160, Lay 256

Synod resumed in Morris Hall, Anglican Church Grammar School, Oaklands Parade, East Brisbane.

**Opening**

The President, the Most Rev'd Dr Phillip Aspinall, took the Chair at 9.00 am, and his Chaplain read prayers.

**President's Inaugural Address**

The President, the Most Rev'd Dr Phillip Aspinall, welcomed Members of Synod and delivered his inaugural address.

**Church Missionary Society – Appointment General Secretary**

Mr Martin Hawkins moved; The Rev'd Michael Uptin seconded:

“That this Synod welcomes the appointment of the Rev'd Mark Fairhurst as the new General Secretary of the Church Missionary Society (Queensland and Northern NSW) and prays that the Lord will continue to bless the efforts of CMS as it works to extend God's kingdom throughout the world.”

*Carried*

**Canon Garland Memorial Society**

The Rev'd Canon Gary Harch moved; The Rev'd Bill Colbrahams seconded:

“That this Synod

- a. Remembers that 2018 is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Armistice of the WW1.
- b. Welcomes the arrival in Brisbane, of the “pectoral” cross of Canon David John Garland, after 79 years of being in England.
- c. Asks that Peter Collins, Secretary of the Canon Garland Memorial Society, and temporary Custodian of the Cross while it is in Brisbane, first show the cross to the Archbishop on Sunday morning at Synod, and then make it available for viewing by members of Synod in a place to be determined by the General Manager.”

*Carried*

**Reports**

The following reports were received:

- Finance and Diocesan Services Commission
- Auditor's Report and Statement of Accounts

**Budget 2019**

The General Manager moved; Mr David Sneesby seconded:

“That this Synod approves the Budget for the 12 months ending 31 December 2019 as detailed in the attached summary and in so doing notes that:

- this Budget has been prepared six months in advance of the year of operation;
- the Budget will need revision and approval by Diocesan Council in the light of any unforeseen external economic factors and more up-to-date estimates of revenue and costs which may emerge in the intervening period; and
- whilst Synod acknowledges that the budget may require a refresh in light of changed circumstances, the intent of operational initiatives included in the budget as submitted will be honoured where possible.”

*Carried***Appointment of Auditors for 2019**

The General Manager moved; Mr David Sneesby seconded:

“That this Synod appoints Ernst & Young as Auditors to the Diocese of Brisbane for all Diocesan audits for three years ending 31 December 2019, 2020 and 2021”.

*Carried***Reports**

The following reports were received:

- Diocesan Council
- Community Services Commission
- Ministry Education Commission
- Parishes and Other Mission Agencies Commission

**Collection & Analysis of Parish Data**

The Rev'd Adam Lowe moved; the Right Rev'd John Roundhill seconded:

“That this Synod notes the continuing work of collection and analysis of parish data and commends the outcomes to the Diocese for use in strategic planning.”

*Carried***Communicating & Reporting on Mission Activities**

The Rev'd Gillian Moses moved; the Rev'd Sue Wilton seconded:

“That this Synod:

- a) celebrates the many and diverse expressions of the mission of God through the Anglican Church Southern Queensland, which nurture relationships and faith formation within our own communities and with the communities in which we are situated;
- b)
- c) encourages the development and effective use of Diocesan media platforms where Anglican faith communities can share their stories of engagement and evangelism;
- d)
- e) asks parishes, schools and agencies to reflect on how they are participating in the mission of God outside formal worship services.”

*Carried***Reports**

The following reports were received:

- Report of the Anglican Schools Commission

**Diocesan Governance Canon Amendment (FDSC) Canon 2018**

The Rev'd Stewart Perry moved; the General Manager seconded:

“That this Synod agrees to the general principles of the Diocesan Governance Canon Amendment (FDSC) Canon 2018.”

*Carried*

The Rev'd Stewart Perry moved; the General Manager seconded:

“That the Diocesan Governance Canon Amendment (FDSC) Canon 2018 do now pass.”

*Carried*

The President announced that he had assented to the Diocesan Governance Canon Amendment (FDSC) Canon 2018.

**General Synod Legislation Canon Amendment Canon 2018**

The Hon Justice Debra Mullins moved; the Rev'd Gillian Moses seconded:

“That this Synod agrees to the general principles of the General Synod Legislation Canon Amendment Canon 2018.”

*Carried*

The Hon Justice Debra Mullins moved; the Rev'd Gillian Moses seconded:

“That the General Synod Legislation Canon Amendment Canon 2018 do now pass.”

*Carried*

The President announced that he had assented to the General Synod Legislation Canon Amendment Canon 2018.

**Professional Standards Canon Amendment Canon 2018**

Ms Vaishi Rajanayagan moved; the General Manager seconded:

“That this Synod agrees to the general principles of the Professional Standards Canon Amendment Canon 2018.”

*Carried*

Ms Vaishi Rajanayagan moved; the General Manager seconded:

“That the Professional Standards Canon Amendment Canon 2018 do now pass.”

*Carried*

The President announced that he had assented to the Professional Standards Canon Amendment Canon 2018.

**Question**

Miss Petrina Gardiner asked:

- a) How much waste is generated through the catering for Synod, and of this, how much is recyclable?
- b) Have any efforts been made, with the caterers or the school facility, to reduce the amount of waste produced, increase the proportion of waste that is recyclable, and provide ways to recycle waste that is recyclable?

Answer –

The Synod is using the facilities of Churchie and the event is subject to the waste and recycling procedures used at Churchie.

The Event Director for Churchie has advised that Churchie does recycle documents/paper/etc and has commercial recycle bins. However, 'green' recycling is not yet in place at Churchie. The caterer endeavours to have as little left-over foods as possible in catering for the numbers provided. Any foods left over are not able to be recycled or used for human consumption. However, historically there has virtually been no wastage from food lines particularly from Synod as catering numbers provided are usually accurate. The caterer has moved to recyclable sandwich wedges and other recyclable products where possible and will use such products if practicable.

Churchie has introduced recycling bins in the past, however, it is difficult to monitor students always doing the right thing and to-date all types of recycling initiatives have not been successful due to contamination. The School is currently in dialogue with contractors looking for a viable solution and, when resolved, bins for recycling of all products will be re-introduced across the campus.

Recycle bins for confidential documentation and paper products are in use in all buildings for staff and students.

The General Manager's Office did engage with Churchie on the issue of waste and recycling for the event but special arrangements outside existing systems proved to be impracticable for 2018.

### **Australian Board of Missions**

The Rev'd Andrew Schmidt moved; the Rev'd Rebecca King seconded:

“That this synod:

1. commends the people of the Diocese for their support of ABM in 2017 and in particular the 2017 Archbishop's November Appeal through which over \$28,000 was raised to help support the Province of Myanmar
2. commends the people of the Diocese for their support of ABM, generally, with over \$180,000 being raised for ABM again in 2017, amounting to 15% of the total donations from all of the Australian Dioceses
3. encourages the people of the Diocese to support the 2018 Archbishop's November Appeal - an urgent need for resources at Yarrabah in North Queensland including to:
  - provide Faithfulness in Service Training
  - provide training in how to lead liturgy and use the prayer book, more prayer books and Bibles and access to e-pray
  - continue repairs to the hall which is a neutral location for Christian Education and other ministry activities
  - provide Resources such as the Bethel Bible Studies
  - provide Funds to send leaders to retreats and diocesan conferences.
  - assist in the provision of other Indigenous Grants
4. commends the Anglican Schools as they support ABM Projects
5. encourages the people of the Diocese to collect used stamps, the sale of which benefits ABM by over \$5,000 each year
6. gives thanks for the contribution of Bishop Bill Ray to the work of ABM in the life of the Church in the Province of Queensland.”

*Carried*

### **Question**

The Rev'd Ann Shepperson asked:

Is this Diocese currently receiving any financial compensation from perpetrators of sexual abuse of children in their care?

If not, is it possible to establish a process where those responsible for such criminal actions provide financial contribution to the Diocese as part of the penalty for their actions for any convictions?

Answer:

Monetary payments to people who have suffered child sexual abuse within the Church in this Diocese are funded from a combination of contributions from schools, Anglicare (in the case of Tufnell Home and Enoggera Boys Home), insurance and other Diocesan resources.

The Diocese considers the opportunity for contribution or recovery from alleged perpetrators of child sexual abuse on a case by case basis.

The principal opportunity for the Diocese to obtain contribution from an alleged perpetrator of child sexual abuse is to join the person as a contributor in civil proceedings. The Diocese was successful in such circumstances in obtaining contribution from an alleged perpetrator to the settlement of one claim of around 10% of the settlement sum.

The Redress and Claims team aims to deal with claims as expeditiously as possible and in a way informed by the risk of re-traumatising the claimant. In that context, the Redress and Claims team carefully considers and balances a number of matters when deciding whether to join an alleged perpetrator as a contributor in civil proceedings, including:

1. Whether the alleged perpetrator has been identified or is still alive;
2. Whether the allegations have been proved in another forum, e.g. by a criminal conviction;
3. The assets available to the alleged perpetrator to meet any judgement or contribution to a settlement;
4. The likelihood of being able to reach an early settlement of the claim if the alleged perpetrator is involved;
5. The impact on the person who was abused of having the alleged perpetrator involved in the proceedings, e.g. the alleged perpetrator having access to the claimant's discovered documents such as medical records and expert medical reports on the claimant, or being present during mandatory settlement conferences.

Our experience has been that in many cases, the alleged perpetrator:

1. is either not identified or is deceased; or
2. is not likely to have sufficient assets to make contribution or recovery steps worthwhile.

While it may be legally possible to commence a separate recovery action against an alleged perpetrator, there are difficulties including that all redress and settlement payments made by the Diocese are voluntary and are not a payment the Diocese has been legally obliged to pay. Also, such an action may require evidence from the person who was abused and therefore present an unreasonable risk of re-traumatisation.

### **Question**

Ms Leanne Cronk asked:

Would you provide an update of the current status and plans for the property at 2 Roseberry Terrace, Chelmer, the old Neilson Home site? The site has remained 'open' ground for close to 20 years.

Has there been any progress in the last 12 months concerning a preferred option for future use or development of this site?

### **Answer:**

Anglicare and the Diocesan Property team have been looking into potential opportunities for the Roseberry Terrace, Chelmer site, and have carried out detailed investigations into the property, particularly from a town planning viewpoint.

The most recent advice from the Brisbane City Council is that there is potential for a resumption of around one third of the site for a future road/bridge. Together with flooding issues, this increases the constraints on the site in terms of future use and in particular substantially hampers its suitability for Aged Care.

Anglicare has no current intention to divest the land but is continuing to explore opportunities for the use of the land to support ongoing mission.

### **Tribunal Canon Amendment Canon 2018**

The Hon Justice Debra Mullins moved; Ms Vaishi Rajanayagan seconded:

“That this Synod agrees to the general principles of the Tribunal Canon Amendment Canon 2018.”

*Carried*

The Hon Justice Debra Mullins moved; Ms Vaishi Rajanayagan seconded:

“That the Tribunal Canon Amendment Canon 2018 do now pass.”

*Carried*

The President announced that he had assented to the Tribunal Canon Amendment Canon 2018.

### **Religious Freedom**

The Rev'd Dr Josephine Inkipin moved; the Rev'd Peter Mayen seconded:

“That this Synod:

1. affirms the view of the National Council of Churches in Australia that ‘the human right to freedom is in reasonable state’ in Australia, but that much more needs to be done by Australian authorities to aid the victims of religious persecution overseas, not least the needs of asylum seekers, irrespective of religious affiliation
2. considers that further attention should be given to the clarification of religious rights to ensure religious freedom is safeguarded for all Australians and that ideas of religious freedom should not be used to support religious privilege, bullying and discrimination
3. calls on the Federal Government to strengthen Australian efforts to help end religious persecution overseas and to receive more compassionately those seeking refuge and asylum
4. encourages members of the Anglican Church Southern Queensland to deepen their prayer and practical support for all victims of religious persecution, and, with the National Council of Churches in Australia, to encourage all Australian leaders, from whatever outlook, ‘to model courteous and respectful discourse in public life.’”

*Carried*

### **Disability Access & Action**

The Rev'd Penny Jones moved; the Rev'd Allan Paulsen seconded:

“That this Synod:

1. affirms the equality and gifts of the members of the Anglican Church Southern Queensland with disability and recognises that there are significant attitudinal and environmental barriers in church and society to their full participation.
2. encourages use of the growing resources supplied by disability support practitioners and theologians of disability.
3. requests Diocesan Council to set up a Diocesan working group to progress a Disability Access and Action Plan, in partnership with people with disability and their families, and in consultation with Anglicare and other expert non-governmental organisations.”

*Carried*

### **Reconciliation Action Plan**

The Rev'd Canon Bruce Boase moved; the Rev'd Dr Josephine Inkipin seconded:

“That this Synod:

1. gives thanks to God for the fruits of the ACSQ Reconciliation Plan (RAP) 2016-2018, and for the ministry of all involved, especially that of Christine Ellis, RAP Co-ordinator
2. requests the Diocesan RAP Working Group to develop a new Innovate RAP in consultation with Reconciliation Australia, with details to be agreed by Diocesan Council



3. encourages all members of the Diocese to contribute their own input to the development of the new RAP and to share fully in the continuing journey of Reconciliation.”

*Carried*

#### **Acknowledgment of Mr BM Lovett**

Mr Doug Russell moved; Mrs Janet Dyke seconded:

“That this Synod acknowledges the tremendous contribution of late (deceased) teacher Mr BM ‘Peter’ Lovett over four decades (excludes military service in WWII) of both TSS and Anglican Church Grammar School, until December 1977. To that end, recommends to the Churchie headmaster and School Council the commissioning of a bronze bust or statue in the precinct of Centenary Library or Brenan Pavilion.”

*Not carried*

Synod adjourned at 9.32 pm.

### **SATURDAY 6 OCTOBER 2018**

Present: Clergy 92, Lay 226

Synod resumed in Morris Hall, Anglican Church Grammar School, Oaklands Parade, East Brisbane.

#### **Opening**

The President, the Most Rev’d Dr Phillip Aspinall, took the Chair at 9.00 am, and his Chaplain read

#### **Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

Dr Chris Gourlay moved; Mrs Suzanne Bain seconded:

“That this Synod respectfully requests the Archbishop to write to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation to encourage the ABC to continue to support programs with a religious element as being an important part of the national identity and cultural life of Australians of all generations and backgrounds and to make provision for those who for whatever reason are not able to use digital technology.”

*Carried*

#### **Bush Church Aid Centenary**

The Rev’d Peter Palmer moved; the Rev’d Michael Uptin seconded:

“That this Synod,

- a. thanks God for 100 years of Mission by the Bush Church Aid Society,
- b. gives thanks to God for the ministry of Bush Church Aid in seeking to reach Australia for Christ in remote, rural, and regional Australia, and in particular with Indigenous Australians, over the past 100 years
- c. encourages parishes to use resources made available by Bush Church Aid to mark this Centenary celebration on Sunday May 26<sup>th</sup> 2019
- d. urges parishes and Synod representatives to support the work of Bush Church Aid in the future by:
  - praying that God would raise up men and women to respond to the call of ministry in remote, rural and regional Australia
  - city parishes to develop links with country parishes here in Queensland

- using the monthly prayer points in their weekly services.”

*Carried*

### **Ecumenical Ministry**

The Right Rev'd Doug Stevens moved; the Rev'd Helen Paget seconded:

“That this Synod encourage continued Diocesan participation in the following ecumenical and multi-faith ministries:

- a) Diocesan Ecumenical Affairs Committee
- b) Queensland Churches Together
- c) Ecumenical Tertiary Chaplaincy Committee
- d) Queensland Faith Communities Council.”

*Carried*

### **St Francis College**

The Rev'd Professor Rodney Wolff moved; the Rev'd Canon Sarah Leisemann seconded:

“That this Synod:

1. acknowledges theological education offers a valuable way to know Jesus and to deepen one's discipleship of him;
2. commits to prayer for, and encouragement of, all undertaking formal theological education, especially for those in formation for ordained ministry in this diocese;
3. commends the Principal, lecturers, and professional staff of St Francis' Theological College for
  - a. providing Bible-based study programs which uphold academic excellence and faithful theological integrity, and
  - b. curating a spiritual and physical environment at the Milton site which is highly conducive to faith seeking understanding; and
4. calls on incumbents and leaders in parishes, other mission agencies, and schools to
  - a. encourage members of their respective communities to engage with learning opportunities at St Francis' College, and
  - b. visit the College to meet with the Principal and staff to discover more about learning opportunities and the potential use of the College for parish fellowship and faith formation activities.”

*Carried*

### **Community of the Way**

The Rev'd Jasmine Dow moved; Ms Wynona Newby-Clark seconded:

“That this Synod:

1. celebrates and gives thanks for the vision and implementation of an intentional Christian community for young adults (Community of The Way), at St Francis Theological College in 2019
2. encourages the people of the Diocese to support the life of the Community through prayer, publicity, and financial giving.”

*Carried*

### **Statements on 'Climate and the Environment'**

The Rev'd Bronwyn Pagram moved; Ms Rebecca Crockett seconded:

“That this Synod:

Recalling the 2009 adoption by this Synod of the General Synod Protection of the Environment Canon 2007 (Canon No. 11, 2007),

1. acknowledges:
  - a. that this Diocese has been slow in meeting the undertakings it made in adopting the Canon, and
  - b. that actual programs and targets have not been co-ordinated nor collated by the Diocese for reporting to General Synod;
2. thanks those individual members, parishes, schools, commissions and agencies of the diocese who are active in reducing their environmental footprint;
3. requests:
  - a. individual parishioners, every Diocesan organisation, and the Diocese as a whole, to commit to putting in the necessary time and energy to take seriously our care for the environment, including the commitments agreed to in the above-mentioned Canon,
  - b. Diocesan Council, in consultation with the Social Responsibilities Committee and Angligrreen, to develop a process whereby we are able to examine our successes, our failures and ways in which we can better respond to the undertakings we made in 2009, and
  - c. requests that progress on this task be the subject of a 2019 Report to this Synod. This report would mark the tenth anniversary of the commitment made in 2009.”

*Carried*

### **Thanks of Synod**

By leave of Synod, the Right Rev'd Jeremy Greaves moved; the Right Rev'd Cameron Venables seconded:

“That the thanks of Synod be accorded to –

- His Grace the Archbishop as President of Synod,
- the Chair of Committees,
- the Deputy Chair of Committees,
- the Chancellor,
- the Deputy Chancellor,
- the Chaplain to Synod,
- the Clerical and Lay Secretaries of Synod,
- the Minutes Committee,
- the Committee of Elections and Qualifications,
- the Timekeeper,
- the Deputy Timekeeper,
- the General Manager,
- those assisting, particularly with the secretarial work

for their care and attention to the conduct of Synod and the preparation thereof.

*Carried*

### **Thanks of Synod**

By leave of Synod, the Right Rev'd Jeremy Greaves moved; the Right Rev'd Cameron Venables seconded:

“That the thanks of Synod be accorded to –

- the Headmaster Dr Alan Campbell, and staff of the Anglican Church Grammar School, in particular Ms Diane Cross, Mr Brian Bowen and the Rev'd Brian Gadd for the use of facilities of the School;
- Scholarest for their nourishing catering at the school;

- the audio-visual staff and student volunteers;
- the many volunteers who provided informative displays during the Synod;
- all of the Diocesan staff who have made themselves available during Synod and for all their work in the preparations for Synod; and
- the Dean and Cathedral personnel for the inspiring Service on Friday evening.

*Carried with acclamation*

Synod adjourned at 12.58 pm.

Phillip Brisbane  
22nd January 2019,