

SYNOD REPRESENTATIVE

What is the Synod?

The Synod is the annual gathering of representatives from the churches of the Diocese with the Archbishop. The Synod meets to consider matters affecting the order and good government of the Diocese. It has been doing so since 1866!

At present there are 830 members of the Synod, broadly divided into clergy and laity. A new Synod is elected every three years.

What does the Synod do?

The Synod has 5 main functions. These are -

- * Electing persons to diocesan bodies
- * Making ordinances
- * Passing resolutions and making policy
- * Receiving reports
- * Providing a time for diocesan-wide fellowship.

What are the responsibilities of parish representatives on the Synod?

To enable Synod to fulfil its functions effectively, parish representatives have 4 basic responsibilities. These are -

1. Attending the Synod sessions over the 3-year Synod cycle (or as much of each session as possible). Sessions for the next Synod are due to be held between 3.15pm and 9.30pm on the following days -
 - In 2023 - 11, 12, 13, 18 and 19 September (1st Ordinary session of the 53rd Synod)
 - In 2024 - (2nd Ordinary session of the 53rd Synod)
 - In 2025 - (3rd Ordinary session of the 53rd Synod)
2. Preparing for the matters to be considered at the Synod. This generally involves reading the materials which are sent to you before the Synod (or as much of the materials as you can).
3. Understanding the basic processes at Synod, or at least coming to Synod ready to learn the basic processes. The best way to understand Synod is by experiencing it first hand!
4. Participating in Synod as far as you are able. This may involve nominating candidates for elections and should involve voting in those elections. It may also involve contributing on the floor of Synod by moving and/or speaking to motions and, when ordinances are considered, asking questions about the ordinances. Possibly the most important way of participating in Synod is the informal networking that goes on before, during and even after the Synod session.

Who is eligible to be a parish representative on the Synod?

You are eligible to be a parish representative if you are a lay person who is -

1. 18 years of age or older, and
2. a communicant member of the Anglican Church of Australia. (You are a communicant member of the Anglican Church of Australia if you are baptised and regularly participate in Holy Communion or the Lord's Supper at an Anglican church.)