

52nd Synod of the Diocese of Sydney

First Ordinary Session – scheduled for 2020

Postponement of the first ordinary session of the Synod

The first ordinary session of the 52nd Synod was scheduled to commence on 12 October 2020. However, the Archbishop, in consultation with the Standing Committee, decided not to summon the first ordinary session of the 52nd Synod in October 2020 owing to the significant health concerns related to such a gathering during the COVID-19 global pandemic. The Archbishop conveyed this decision in his letter addressed to members of the 52nd Synod, dated 30 July 2020, shown in the attachment below.

The first ordinary session of the 52nd Synod was subsequently held on 3 May 2021 ahead of the Special Session of the 52nd Synod held on 4 – 6 May 2021. See [\(2021\) Synod Minutes \(1st Session of the 52nd Synod\)](#).



Archbishop of Sydney

30 July 2020

Dear members of Synod

Greetings in our Saviour's name.

Firstly, for those who have been recently elected to the 52nd Synod of the Diocese of Sydney, I welcome you to our Synod membership. It is a great responsibility to be a Synod representative of your parish or as a non-parochial member, for those appointed or elected under other parts of the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995. Decisions made by the Synod affect every aspect of our diocesan life and I am grateful for the diligence and commitment of so many to the good governance of our Diocese.

Ordinarily, the first session of the 52nd Synod would have been held in the second and third weeks of October this year. However, COVID-19 has made many disruptions to our lives. The Government's restrictions on gathering, under the current Public Health Order, make it not feasible for me to summon the Synod in the next couple of weeks. In consultation with the Standing Committee, I have therefore decided not to summon the first ordinary session of the 52nd Synod in October 2020.

It may be possible for me to call a one day session of the next Synod later in the year, possibly on a Saturday, but this will depend upon the restrictions on gathering that are applicable at that time under the relevant Public Health Order. With the second wave of outbreaks of COVID-19 in Victoria, which have spilled over into NSW and even Queensland, the situation is very fluid.

However, in order that our various boards and councils may continue to operate effectively, the Standing Committee has recommended to me that 12th October be deemed as the first day of the first ordinary session of the 52nd Synod for the purposes of elections. This is possible under our regulations and the Diocesan Secretary will be informing you shortly of the processes we have put in place to enable the triennial elections to take place.

Since my retirement as Archbishop will now take place in March next year, we have set aside the week beginning 19th April 2021 for a special session of the 52nd Synod for the purpose of electing an Archbishop, provided we can secure a venue that satisfies restrictions in place at the time. If it is not feasible to hold the first day of the first ordinary session of the 52nd Synod before that week, then Monday 19th April will become the first day of the first session presided over by Bishop Hayward, as the Administrator. The Election Synod will then be conducted over Tuesday-Friday, 20th -23rd April. If it is not possible to hold any session of Synod in April, owing to Public Health Order restrictions, then Bishop Hayward will remain as Administrator of the Diocese, for perhaps longer than he had anticipated.

These are challenging days for all of us, when our usual routines are disrupted. However, I pray that we shall all play our part with grace and generosity, as we seek to honour our Government, in order to honour the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 13:1-2).

With all joy in believing

Grace and peace

Glenn N Davies
Archbishop

The Most Rev Dr Glenn N Davies Anglican Diocese
of Sydney

St Andrew's House, Sydney Square. PO Box Q190, QVB Post Office NSW 1230 Telephone: +61 2
9265 1521 Email: archbishop@sydney.anglican.asn.au