

## **13.10 PETITION FOR LICENSING, DEDICATION, OR CONSECRATION OF A BUILDING FOR USE AS A CENTRE OF WORSHIP**

A building for use as a church cannot be used as such until it has been duly licensed by the Bishop.

A petition for licensing, dedicating, or consecrating of a building for use as a centre of worship is to be made by the Incumbent and the Churchwardens on the attached form. Before a building can be licensed, dedicated or consecrated it must contain:

- (i) A Holy Table with the prescribed books, linen and ornaments
- (ii) Vessels for the administration of the Holy Communion
- (iii) A suitable Chair for presiding at worship
- (iv) A suitable place for preaching
- (v) A Font
- (vi) Printed or electronic versions of the service books authorised by General Synod, including the Book of Common Prayer.
- (vii) Lectern and a Holy Bible in a translation approved for use in public worship by the Bishop, currently the Revised Standard Version.
- (viii) Proper seating for the worshippers
- (ix) A proper means of safely retaining records in suitable storage in accordance with the Diocesan Policy on Retention and Disposal of Records in a Parish.

No Church building shall be used for any purposes other than divine service, the administration of the sacraments and the performance of the rites and ceremonies of the Anglican Church of Australia or religious instruction. Meetings of Electors can be held in accordance with any ordinance of the Diocese of Newcastle except with the authority in writing of the Bishop either generally, for a specific purpose or for a specific occasion and the consent of the Incumbent and Parish Council or Parish Resource Team first having been obtained.

A building cannot be consecrated until it is free of any debt. The building may be defined as a place of public worship if

- (i) The Bishop has given approval;
- (ii) It meets the requirements of the local community as defined by them and approved by the Property Approvals Board;
- (iii) It complies with the requirements of the Building Code of Australia for places of public gathering; and
- (iv) It is furnished with those requirements of public worship required for that specific place and purpose.

PETITION FOR DEDICATION,  
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OF A BUILDING FOR USE AS A  
CHURCH

