

3.6 PASTORAL COURTESIES

Pastoral Ministry with people from other parishes and other Dioceses:

1. Other parishes

When approached to officiate at a pastoral office for people outside your parish who are not intending to join your parish as worshipping Anglicans you should contact the priest of their home parish informing that priest of the contact and requesting that priest’s goodwill. You should forward to that priest the details of the people for that priest’s subsequent pastoral ministry to them. This courtesy should be practised for ministry associated with weddings and funerals. In regard to baptisms and confirmations permission to undertake pastoral preparation must be obtained prior to the acceptance of the request and commencement of sacramental preparation.

2. Other Dioceses

The non-practice of this pastoral courtesy with requests by people from other Dioceses implicates the Diocesan Bishop. It is essential that prior permission in regard to baptisms and confirmations be sought and obtained from the clergy of the other Diocese. Please know that other Dioceses may have regulations regarding the minimum age for Confirmation and this is a factor that may come into play when permission is sought. If you are seeking permission to celebrate a wedding or to preside at a funeral in another Diocese the usual practice is that that Diocesan authority will seek a written assurance from the Bishop of Newcastle that you are a priest in good standing in this Diocese.

3. Confirmation

The officiating Bishop will bring a copy of the New Testament as a gift to each candidate. It is the priest’s responsibility to complete the Confirmation Certificates and have them ready for the Bishop to sign before the Service as well as the Confirmation Register. There should be careful preparation of the candidates in the Christian Faith and for their participation in the Confirmation Service. Care needs to be exercised in preparing for the actual presentation of the candidates to the Bishop in the Service itself. The Bishop wants to meet the candidates prior to the commencement of the Service. Please also read the pastoral guidelines to Confirmation. (See section 3.1)

4. Clergy from other Dioceses officiating at Pastoral Offices in the Diocese of Newcastle

Such clergy must obtain permission from the Bishop of Newcastle to minister in this Diocese and the Bishop will seek a notification from the clergyperson’s Diocese of origin of their good standing in that Diocese. Then permission may be given.

5. Marriage Outside a Church Building

Delegated Authority has been given to the Incumbent of a Parish, or a Chaplain to an institution to authorise for himself/herself, and for clergy licensed to the parish, approval to conduct a marriage outside a church building.

All approvals should be recorded in the Delegated Authority Register by recording the following details:

- Date of marriage
- Names of the people being marriage
- Name of the officiant
- Place of marriage
- Signature of the Incumbent

This is in addition to the information recorded in the Marriage Register.

All approvals for weddings to be conducted by clergy visiting from outside the Diocese must be made by the Bishop.

6. Marriages involving a Divorced Person – A Second Marriage

The Incumbent, Chaplain and clergy licensed to a parish may authorise the marriage of a person who is divorced provided that:

- All approvals for marriages by clergy visiting the Diocese must be made by the Bishop
- The approval for the marriage of a person who has been divorced more than once must be made by the Bishop
- The approval for a member of the clergy or ordination candidate who has been divorced or marrying a divorced person will remain with the Bishop.

No member of the clergy is obliged to officiate at a wedding of a person who has been divorced and any member of the clergy may still refer an application to the Bishop for consideration.

All approvals should be recorded in the Delegated Authority Register by recording the following details:

- Date of marriage
- Names of the people being married
- Name of the officiant
- Place of marriage
- Signature of the incumbent.

This is in addition to the information recorded in the Marriage Register.