

# CLOYNE COUNCIL OF PRIESTS

## CONSTITUTION

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### PREAMBLE

In each Diocese there is to be established a Council of Priests, that is, a group of priests who represent the presbyterium and who are to be, as it were, the Bishop's senate. The Council's role is to assist the Bishop, in accordance with the Law, in the governance of the Diocese, so that the pastoral welfare of that portion of the people of God entrusted to the Bishop may be effectively promoted (Canon 495, §1)

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### NAME

- 1.1 The name of the body shall be the Cloyne Council of Priests.

### FUNCTIONS

- 2.1 To act as a consultative body which will aid the Bishop in the governance of the Diocese.
- 2.2 To provide a forum for discussion of matters of pastoral concern in the Diocese and of matters relevant to the life and ministry of the priests of the Diocese.

### COMPETENCE

- 3.1 The Council has a consultative role only. The Bishop shall consult with it in matters of more serious moments, but he requires its consent only in the cases expressly defined by law.
- 3.2 The Bishop convenes the Council, he or his delegate presides over it, he determines the items to be discussed, and he promulgates any decisions made in the light of the discussion.
- 3.3 When the See falls vacant, the Council of Priests cease to exist and its functions are then fulfilled by the College of Consultors.

## MEMBERS

- 4.1 The Council shall consist of
- (a) The Bishop
  - (b) The Vicar(s) General and the Chancellor/Diocesan Secretary shall be ex-officio members
  - (c) Not less than twelve and not more than sixteen priests elected by all the priests of the Diocese.
  - (d) Priests who are living in the Diocese and exercise some useful office there, whether they be secular priests not incardinated in the Diocese, or priest members of religious institutes or of societies of apostolic life. Canon 498 §1 2°
  - (e) Four priests are appointed by the Bishop.
- 4.2 Elected member of the Council shall hold office for a term of four years. A member may be re-elected for a successive term of four years but not for a third term without an interval.

## ELECTION PROCEDURE

- 5.1 All priests incardinated in the Diocese and in possession of a current celebret shall be eligible to vote and shall be eligible for election to the Council.
- 5.2 Election shall be by a single ballot.
- 5.3 The Council of Priests at the final meeting of its term of office or in the absence of the Council, the College of Consultors, shall arrange for the election of members of a new Council: defining the groupings of priests, and stating the number of priests to be elected from each group.

## MEETINGS

- 6.1 The Council shall choose from among its members a Chairman and a Secretary.
- 6.2 The Secretary under the direction of the Bishop shall prepare the Agenda and circulate it to all members of the Council not less than seven days before a meeting.
- 6.3 The ordinary meetings of the Council will be held on alternate months at a date and venue arranged by the Bishop. Extraordinary meetings may be convened by the Bishop at his discretion.

- 6.4 The Bishop may invite to meetings of the Council, people with special expertise on matters to be discussed at the Council, but such persons shall not have the right to vote.
- 6.5 In the interests of a full and frank exchange of views, due secrecy shall be maintained on matters of a confidential nature. This applies in particular to: (a) individual votes; (b) expressions of personal opinion; (c) items which the Council adjudges confidential.
- 6.6 The Secretary shall circulate draft Minutes to the members of the Council along with the Agenda for the coming meeting. A summary of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council shall be circulated to each of the priests of the Diocese as soon as possible after a meeting.

Given at the Cloyne Diocesan Centre, Cobh, Co. Cork.

Date. .... *10th May 2021* .....

Signed. .... *+ Wm. Crean* .....



