



LEO
DEI ET APOSTOLICÆ SEDIS GRATIA
ARCHIEPISCOPUS
S. ANDREÆ ET EDIMBURGENSIS
DECREE

PREAMBLE

Whereas:

- 1) The Code of Canon Law provides for an Archdiocesan Pastoral Council in Cann. 511-514, to investigate, consider and propose practical conclusions on matters pertaining to pastoral work in the archdiocese. This canonical provision reflects the wish of the Second Vatican Council found in *Christus Dominus* 27;
- 2) Each member of the current Archdiocesan Pastoral Council has had the opportunity to review the proposed Statutes and there were no amendments suggested;
- 3) To the best of Our knowledge there are not and have not been approved statutes for the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council and;
- 4) The Statutes are provided to all members of the Council, retained in the Chancery Office and available to be viewed via the archdiocesan website:


Accordingly, I, Leo Cushley, Archbishop of St Andrews & Edinburgh, **HEREBY DECREE and DIRECT** that,

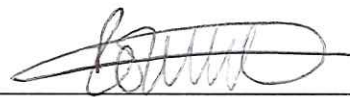
- 5) With immediate effect, the document entitled, "The Statutes for the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council of the Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh (2024)" as detailed at n.4 of this DECREE are hereby adopted *Ad Experimentum* for a period of FIVE years;

- 6) For the duration of the five year period they will be reviewed by the council and unless otherwise stated enter into full force at the end of the five year period on 1 November 2029.
- 7) That this DECREE is to be promulgated immediately on the Archdiocesan website, that attention be drawn to it in a letter *ad clerum* and that a copy should be sent to the members of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council.

Furthermore:

- 8) If anyone considers themselves to be aggrieved by this administrative DECREE, that person is within their rights to seek hierarchical recourse according to the norms of cann. 1734 and 1737 and;
- 9) All things to the contrary notwithstanding.


✠ Leo Cushley
Archbishop of St Andrews & Edinburgh


The Very Reverend R. Taylor
Chancellor

Given at Edinburgh, 1 November 2024, The Solemnity of All Saints.



Statutes for the
Archdiocesan Pastoral Council
of the Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh (2024)

PREAMBLE

The Archdiocesan Pastoral Council has been founded through the wish of the Second Vatican Council, expressed in the decree on the pastoral office of Bishops, *Christus Dominus*, that stated:

It is greatly desired that in each diocese a pastoral commission will be established over which the diocesan bishop himself will preside and in which specially chosen clergy, religious and lay people will participate. The duty of this commission will be to investigate and weight pastoral undertakings and to formulate practical conclusions regarding them. (CD 27).

The role of the council is further outlined in the Code of Canon Law, which covers the Pastoral Council from cann. 511-514, and which entrusts to it – under the authority of the archbishop – the work of investigating, considering and proposing “practical conclusions about [...] things which pertain to pastoral works in the diocese” (cf can. 511).

Title I

NAME

Art. 1 – The name of this body shall be “The Pastoral Council of the Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh”. Hereafter referred to as “the Pastoral Council” or APC.

Title II

PURPOSE

Art. 2 – The purpose of the Pastoral Council shall be:

1. To provide, under the direction of the Archbishop, a forum for the discussion of the pastoral work of the Archdiocese;

2. The Pastoral Council can also be called upon by the Archbishop to investigate the pastoral work undertaken in the Archdiocese, to ensure that it is supported to achieve its ends;
3. The Pastoral Council provides a forum that reflects the Christian faithful of the Archdiocese to enable the Archbishop to hear from as wide a range of professions, social conditions and local parish settings, as possible.
4. The Pastoral Council possesses a consultative vote.

Title III

MEMBERSHIP

Art. 3 - Membership of the Pastoral Council is attained by virtue of office or by archiepiscopal appointment, which is made on the recommendation of the clergy appointed to those offices that make up the Pastoral Council.

Art. 4 - §1 The Pastoral Council is not limited to the numbers that make it up. However, members who are appointed *ex officio* include:

1. Vicars General
2. Chancellor
3. Vicars Episcopal
4. The Chair of the Catechetics Commission
5. The Chair of the Archdiocesan Youth Initiative
6. The Archdiocesan Vocations Director
7. The Director of Religious Vocations
8. The Director of Diaconal Vocations

§2 The Chief Operating Officer of the Archdiocese attends in the capacity of an observer.

§3 From the commission that supports the work of each Vicar Episcopal, the Chair of the Catechetics Commission or the Chair of the Archdiocesan Youth Initiative, they are to nominate two members who will be appointed to the Pastoral Council.

Art. 5 - §1 The term of the members appointed from the individual commissions is five years.

Art. 6 - If a nominated member provides their resignation (cf. Standing Order, Title II), is removed, falls ill or through their demise, the Vicar Episcopal, Chair of the Catechetics Commission or the Chair of the Youth Initiative shall

nominate a new member from the present members of the commission in question.

Art. 7 - For the Vicar Episcopal for Clergy and Religious and the Vicar Episcopal for International Clergy, offices that function as representatives for both groups, the need to delegate members is dispensed. However, these Vicars are free to present candidates as representatives to the Archbishop for approval.

Art. 8 - All members of the Pastoral Council must be from the Catholic Christian faithful, religious or clergy. They are to be outstanding in firm faith, good morals and prudence (cf. can 512 §3).

Title IV

OFFICERS

Art. 9 - The officers of the Council shall be the President, the Chairman and the Secretary.

Art. 10 - The President shall be the Archbishop (cf. can. 511).

Art. 11 - §1 The Chairman and the Secretary shall be appointed by the Archbishop.

§2 The Chairman shall chair the meetings of the Council.

§3 In the absence of the Chairman, the President shall appoint another member to chair the meetings.

Title V

MEETINGS

Art. 12 - The Archbishop shall convene the Pastoral Council at least once a year (cf. can. 514 §2).

Art. 13 - A simple majority of the membership shall constitute *a quorum*.

Title VI

FINANCES

Art. 14 - The operating budget for the Pastoral Council shall be included in the Archdiocesan budget.

Title VII

AMENDMENTS

Art. 15 – An amendment to these Statutes requires a two-thirds vote of the members of the Pastoral Council, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing to the previous meeting of the Council. Amendments are always subject to the approval of the Archbishop and the Archbishop may, after consulting the Council of Priests, introduce changes to these Statutes *motu proprio*.



Ad Experimentum

Standing Order of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council

Title I

Officers

Art. 1 - The President calls the meetings.

Art. 2 - The Chairman runs the meetings (cf. Statutes of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, Art. 11 §2).

Art. 3 - The Secretary shall:

1. Call the roll at Pastoral Council meetings;
2. Draft the minutes and action points of each Council meeting and send the draft, subject to approval by the Archbishop, to the members;
3. Receive proposals from the members of matters for the agenda;
4. Shall, upon approval of the Archbishop, circulate the agenda of forthcoming meetings to the members;
5. Maintain the permanent records of the Pastoral Council and;
6. Maintain an accurate roster of Council constituents and Council members.

Title II

Vacancies

Art. 4 - Resignations are effective if and when accepted by the President of the Pastoral Council.

Art. 5 - Pastoral Council vacancies shall be filled by the Vicar Episcopal or Chair of the Catechetics Commission, proposing a new member in writing to the Archbishop for confirmation.

Title III

Meetings

Art. 6 - The President shall call a meeting providing notice of 1 month

Art. 7 - Members of the Pastoral Council must be present to vote.

Art. 8 - Votes shall be *viva voce*.

Art. 9 - As foreseen in universal law, the Pastoral Council possesses a consultative vote.

Title IV

Agenda

Art. 10 – The agenda, compiled by the Secretary and approved by the President and Chair, should be issued at least one week prior to the meeting.