

### Parish Councilors Pack

This pack is a new initiative to provide Parish Councilors with a variety of information that is essential to undertaking the task of being a member of a Parish Council.

The context that the Church in Australia now finds itself is changing dramatically and the requirements for volunteers to have:

- National Police Check (NPC)
- Working with Children Checks (WWCC)
- Attended a Safe Church Awareness Workshop (SCAW)

have been widened significantly through Victorian Government legislation.

Furthermore, the ongoing Commonwealth Royal Commission into Institutional Child Abuse, although not finished, has produced a number of interim reports which again will significantly change the way we undertake much of the practice of ministry and administration in our Church.

Thus as you will find in the information in the pack, the diocese will be undertaking much more detailed checking of people holding positions of responsibility within parishes.

You will find in this pack:

- A guide to being a member of Parish Council
- Faithfulness in Service – A code of practice applying to clergy and church workers
- Being Together – A code of practice for laity and congregations
- The updated Parish Administration Act
- The Parish Administration handbook
- A copy of the Lay Authorisations Policy

Don't be overwhelmed by all this material, but take time to read and absorb it. Note any questions or concerns and raise them at Parish Council, with your priest or email the diocese.

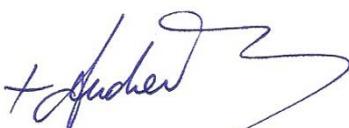
This may all sound very onerous and challenging, but it is necessary for the Church to reinstate its reputation in our society that it is a **safe place** in which we undertake the mission and ministry of the Church in the name of Christ.

Some of you may already have undertaken these requirements, but if you haven't you will be required to do so by 30 June 2017. Details about Safe Church Workshops for 2017 will be available soon and you should talk to your clergy about obtaining a Working with Children Check and National Police Check.

If you have any concerns or enquiries please don't hesitate to contact the Registry and the best way to do this is through my PA Sarah at [bishoppa@bendigoanglican.org.au](mailto:bishoppa@bendigoanglican.org.au) or call 5443 4711.

I thank you for your cooperation and good will.

With every blessing  
Yours sincerely



The Rt Rev'd Andrew Curnow AM  
Bishop of Bendigo