



Anglican Church of Australia

Primate: The Most Reverend Dr Philip L Freier

CIRCULAR LETTER

To: General Synod Members
Subject: Eighteenth Session of General Synod – Postponement to 2021
Date: 26 March 2020

Dear Members of General Synod,

I write with a heavy heart in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and its ongoing destructive consequences.

In these exceptional times we are all deciding on matters that we had hoped, planned and worked for but which we now find ourselves postponing or cancelling. One such decision concerns our planned gathering for the next meeting of General Synod.

The legislative provisions of both Commonwealth and Queensland governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic mean that it will not be possible to continue with plans for the current arrangements for the Eighteenth Session of General Synod.

The restrictions, including travel bans, limits on group gatherings and closed state borders make holding the General Synod in Maroochydore from 31 May to 5 June 2020 both unlawful and for all practical purposes impossible.

I have consulted with the Metropolitan Archbishops, the members of General Synod Standing Committee and called a special meeting of the Standing Committee Executive Committee to ratify the decision to postpone the event.

It has been determined that the Eighteenth Session of General Synod will be postponed and a new booking has been confirmed at the Novotel Sunshine Coast Resort, Maroochydore from 30 May 2021 to 4 June 2021.

The General Secretary will be in contact with members with more information on the status of registrations and travel and accommodation requests.

In this season of Lent, we are mindful of the love of God in Christ who entered the suffering and pain of this world to bring life. In the words of Paul to the Church in Thessalonica, "Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word." (2Thess 2:16,17)

Grace and peace in Christ Jesus

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Philip Melbourne".

The Most Reverend Dr Philip L Freier
Archbishop of Melbourne & Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia