

Board of Nominators

COMMUNICATION TO SYNOD MEMBERS
12 MARCH 2025



ANGLICAN
DIOCESE OF
MELBOURNE

Dear synod members,

It's been a number of months since we last communicated with you. So even though there's not much that is definite to share with you, we wanted to write and let you know that we are hard at work considering potential candidates for the role of Archbishop of Melbourne.

Board membership

Since we first met in August 2024, a number of board members have stepped down for a variety of personal reasons. While board vacancies must be filled if they occur before the first meeting of the board, the same is not true after the first meeting. That means that the current membership is lower than the original 18 people. (Board members as of March 12 2025 are listed at the bottom of this communication).

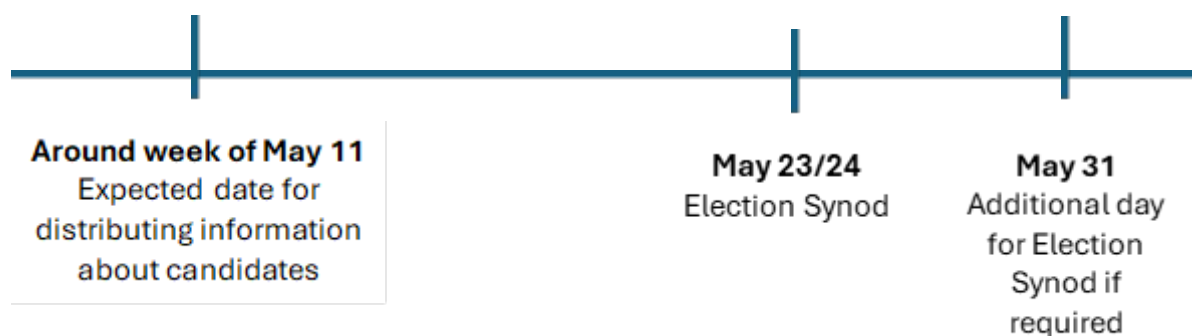
Time spent

Since August 10 (the first day we met formally), the board has had 20 meetings as a full board involving more than 71 hours of time. Additionally, there have been another 15 hours spent in online meetings and discussions. And, individually, board members have put in countless hours in small groups on projects such as gathering and analysing feedback from synod members, writing a diocesan profile and managing board logistics.

I know that the workload was part of the reason that some people were unable to continue as board members. This must have been a hard decision to make but understandable and I want to honour those who contributed to our processes but were not able to continue. I also want to take this opportunity to thank the remaining board members. Such a time commitment is serious and is on top of many other important family, work and church responsibilities.

Timelines

We continue to work towards a synod date of May 23/24 for an election synod. This involves not just agreeing on candidates to be presented but also ensuring that information is prepared for synod members and that other processes such as professional standards checks are complete.



Synod processes

Synod is organised by the Registry, not the Board of Nominators, and there will be separate communications from them. As a board we are working hard to complete the things we need to do for the election synod.

1. We are preparing an information pack that synod members should get around two weeks before synod. We hope to include videos of candidates, written information on issues that synod members identified as important for their decision making and a summary of the candidates' ministry roles and experiences. Please set aside time in your diary now so that you can read and absorb this pack when it is sent to you in May. There are likely to be links to candidate sermons and other materials that may take time to get familiar with.
2. We are preparing information that will be presented on candidates at the synod meeting itself. This will necessarily be less than is in the information pack because of the limited time available at synod.
3. As was required in the act, the Administrator (Bishop Genieve Blackwell) and I have confirmed that she will chair the election synod.

Some of you may have tried reading the synod act and have noticed that the election process is quite involved. We've created our best attempt at a [election process cheat sheet](#) (in handy flow diagram format on our website www.boardofnominators.org). This is a representation of the process to the best of our knowledge (though it may not contain every detail). Don't wait until May 23. Have a look now and get acquainted with it because the synod business may move quite quickly once voting starts.

Our requests for you

There are two things we'd love from you:

1. Please don't ask us for information about candidates or the board. It gets very awkward for board members to try to fend off well-meaning requests for information. Even just questions like "how are things going on the board?" can be complicated to answer without potentially jeopardising confidentiality. Please don't ask and please understand if board members politely say that they can't comment about something.
2. Please continue to pray. Pray for the board – for stamina and good humour and a continued focus on God's will for the diocese of Melbourne. Pray for candidates – for clarity, discernment and wisdom. Pray for synod members – that we will all be able to discern collectively who should be the next Archbishop of Melbourne and that we will do it in a way that is respectful, honest and gracious.

Board members at March 12, 2025

Kirsty Brown
Matthew Crichton
Jenny George
Ian Gibson
Farag Hanna
Ian Harper
Andrew Livingstone
Fiona McLean
Chris Porter
Chris Sadler
Michael Shand
Dianne Shay
Alison Taylor
Ben Wong

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Yours in Christ,

Dr Jenny George
Chair, Board of Nominators

Further information: boardofnominators.org

Contact: info@boardofnominators.org