

THE AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND DIOCESE

OF THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OUTSIDE OF RUSSIA

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29 May 2019

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Circular

To the Father Rectors and Superiors of all Parishes, Missions, Monasteries and Communities of the Australian and New Zealand Diocese

I am writing to formally advise you that the Nineteenth Diocesan Assembly of the Australian-New Zealand Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia will be held at the Saints Peter and Paul Diocesan Cathedral, Strathfield, from the evening of **Thursday, 14 November until the afternoon of Sunday, 17 November 2019.**

Diocesan Assemblies are provided for in the Regulations of the Australian-New Zealand Diocese. Held at least every three years, Diocesan Assemblies gather all the clergy of the Diocese together with a number of elected lay delegates. Rectors are reminded that the number of lay delegates must correspond to the number of clergy assigned to the parish (in accordance with paragraph 17a of the Diocesan By-laws). The members of the Diocesan Council and the Diocesan Auditing Committee are, by their position, delegates to the assembly (accordance with paragraph 17b of the Diocesan By-laws). Parishes and communities that do not have a regular Rector are to choose one delegate. Monasteries may send one delegate for the Assembly. Certain Diocesan officials and representatives of Diocesan institutions are also invited to attend the Assembly.

The Diocesan Assembly hears reports on the life of the parishes, monasteries, missions and other Diocesan institutions and selects the Diocesan Council and Auditing Committee for the following term. The Diocesan budget for 2020-2022 will also be presented at the Assembly.

This year, the Diocesan Assembly will coincide with a celebration of the thirty-fifth anniversary of Metropolitan Hilarion's episcopal service. On the morning of Sunday, 17 November 2019, a hierarchical Divine Liturgy will be served followed by a festive lunch to honour Metropolitan Hilarion's service. All parishes in the diocese **will be closed** that weekend since all clergy will be concelebrating with His Eminence.

All Diocesan clergy are asked to make immediate arrangements to be in Sydney for the duration of the Diocesan Assembly. Clergy should bring gold vestments and appropriate headwear with them to be able to participate in the hierarchical Divine Liturgy.

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For the election of the parish delegates, rectors should ensure that a parish meeting is held no later than Sunday, 13 October 2019. If the Parish Annual General Meeting is due to be held during this time the election of Diocesan Assembly delegates may be added to the usual agenda. If not, an Extraordinary Parish Meeting should be arranged. The Diocesan Office should receive a copy of the minutes of the parish meeting together with the certification of the parish delegates, with their contact details, no later than 20 October 2019.

The role of lay delegates at a Diocesan Assembly is to prayerfully and attentively participate in the work of the Assembly together with Diocesan clergy. In addition, parish delegates may make themselves available to serve on the Diocesan Council or in another official capacity.

As usual the cost of travel to and from the Diocesan Assembly and accommodation for delegates in Sydney is to be borne by the Parishes, Missions, Communities and Monasteries that each clergyman or lay delegate is representing, as well as the cost for meals and refreshment.

A complete agenda and relevant documentation will be distributed closer to the date. Requests for items to be added to the agenda may be forwarded to the Diocesan Office on anzdiocese@iinet.net.au.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bp. George".

+Bishop George of Canberra
Auxiliary Bishop of Australia and New Zealand Diocese
Of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia