

**DIOCESE OF ROCKHAMPTON****THE BISHOP'S PREROGATIVE CANON 1899**

(With Amendments)

***Powers of the Bishop***

1. When a Bishop of Rockhampton shall have been duly appointed and installed or enthroned he shall be "the Bishop" within the meaning of "The Canon Interpretation Canon," and as Ordinary Chief Pastor of the Diocese shall be deemed to have and may exercise within the said Diocese of Rockhampton all and singular the powers and prerogatives which are inherent or vested in a Bishop of a Diocese of the Church of England in England, and such other powers as hereinafter mentioned and more particularly in relation to the following matters (amongst others) that is to say:-

***Licenses to Clergy***

- (i) The granting and revoking of licenses to Clergy to officiate in the Diocese subject to any Canons regulating the same.

***Powers of An Ordinary***

- (ii) The exercise of all such powers of an Ordinary as are created or instituted either expressly or by implication by the provisions of the Book of Common Prayer, and the power to put forth or sanction additional services and to adapt the services of the Book of Common Prayer and to direct or sanction the use of additional prayers.

Provided that such additional services or prayers shall be subject to such limitations as may be imposed by Provincial or other lawful authority and shall not affect the doctrinal teaching or value of the services contained in the Book of Common Prayer.

Provided always that in case any manner of question or dispute shall arise touching the nature of such doctrinal teaching contained in such adaptation, or additional service an appeal shall lie to the Metropolitan's Court established under "The Appellate Tribunal Canon" for the province of Queensland.

***Visitatorial Power***

- (iii) The exercise either by himself or his Archdeacons or any of them of such visitatorial powers in respect of all Church officers as are exercised by a Bishop or by his Archdeacons in England.

***Approval of Plans***

- (iv) The approval of plans for the erection of Churches and other buildings to be erected on any site vested in the Corporation of the Synod of the Diocese of Rockhampton, or in any other person or persons upon trust for the benefit of the Church of England.

***Issue of Faculties***

- (v) The issue of faculties for alterations in or additions to or the rebuilding or enlargement of any Church or other building used for the purpose of public worship erected on any site so vested as aforesaid.

Provided that nothing herein contained shall be deemed or taken to limit or curtail the rights, powers, or privileges of the Bishop to exercise within the said Diocese all or any of the duties or functions or to perform within the said Diocese all or any of the acts peculiar or appropriate to the office of a Bishop or the Church of England which may be exercised or performed by a Bishop of a Diocese of the said Church in England within his Diocese in England.

*Access to Churches Etc.*

2. The Bishop shall have free access to all Churches or other buildings used for the purpose of public worship in the Diocese whenever he may require the use of the same for any purpose in fulfilment of his office as Bishop and on such occasions he shall have full control and ordering of the services.

*Representation at Parish Meetings*

3. The Bishop, or upon the invitation of the Parochial Council, his representative appointed in writing shall have the right to attend and take part in any meeting of the Parishioners of any Parish or District, and shall be ex officio a member of all Parochial Councils.

**INTERPRETATION OF CLAUSE (v), SECTION 1 - PASSED 1946**

All consecrated ground and buildings and their contents are under the care of the Ordinary and therefore with certain exceptions no change whatever by way of additions, subtraction or alteration can lawfully be made in the fabric or contents of a Church or in a Church-yard or the fences surrounding without a Faculty from the Ordinary. This restriction extends to all material additions, removals or alterations whether of a legal or illegal character, and notwithstanding that they have been made without a Faculty. But it does not apply to mere repairs, effecting simply a restoration to the former state of things, nor to such small matters as movable seats, hassocks, book-boxes and books, and trifling alterations in pews.