

















- (12) Decisions are to be made by a simple majority of the members present at the meeting. There shall be no proxy voting.
- (13) A member of the Parish Council may refer a decision of the Parish Council to the Corporate Trustees for consideration should that member determine that the decision is not in the best interest of the Church, Diocese or Parish.
- (14) The Parish Council may form and delegate any of their powers to a sub-committee of the Parish as they think fit and may from time to time revoke such delegation.

### **Rights and Responsibilities of the Parish Council**

- (15) The Parish priest(s), as head of the Parish and by virtue of their vested ecclesiastical authority, shall guide and oversee the Parish, and is ultimately responsible for the whole life and activities of his Parish.
- (16) The Secretary shall keep records of all meetings and in consultation with the other members of the Parish Council shall prepare with the Chairman the agenda before each meeting.
- (17) The Treasurer shall oversee church financial policy and shall be responsible for the receiving, accounting and disbursing of Parish funds and developing the annual Parish budget. The Treasurer is to prepare the annual financial report within four (4) weeks after the end of the financial year. The books and documents shall be available for inspection by the Parish Council.
- (18) The Treasurer and the Parish priest (and if there is more than one Parish priest, the most senior Parish priest or the Parish priest that he nominates) shall be the only signatories to the Parish bank accounts, and are the only authorised individuals to withdraw or deposit funds into the Parish bank accounts.
- (19) Any expenditure of Parish funds shall require a simple majority resolution of the Parish Council, or the simple majority resolution of all the members of the Diocesan Financial Advisory Board.
- (20) Upon the expiration of its term, the Parish Council shall surrender to the succeeding Parish Council all records.

---

**His Holiness Pope Tawadros II**  
Pope of Alexandria & the Patriarch of  
the See of St Mark  
Date:

---

**His Eminence Metropolitan Tadros**  
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese  
of Port Said, & Papal Representative  
for the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of  
Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

---

**His Grace Bishop Daniel**  
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese  
of Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

---

**Very Reverend Father Matthew Attia**  
Vicar General of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions

---

**Dr Medhat Guirgis**  
Trustee of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions

---

**Mr Naguib Kaldas**  
Trustee of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions





- (21) Upon the request of the Parish priest(s), the Corporate Trustees may remove any member of the Parish Council if that member deviates from faith and Christian behaviour, or violates their fiduciary obligation towards the Church or the Parish, or abandons their duties as a member of the Parish Council.

### **Annual General Meetings**

- (22) Annual General Meetings shall be held to inform parishioners of spiritual, financial, social or administrative matters that concern the Parish.
- (23) A notice shall be published advertising the time, date and location of the Annual General Meeting at least four weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

### **Objectives of the Parish**

- (24) The Parish shall:
- A. Promote a Christian way of life according to the faith and doctrines of the Coptic Orthodox Church through:
- i. Administering the sacraments;
  - ii. The pastoral work of the clergy;
  - iii. Christian education, publication and Sunday Schools;
  - iv. Spiritual meetings and Bible study;
  - v. Group activities such as spiritual camps, cultural clubs, sports, religious plays, social gatherings, trips, ethnic classes and similar activities; and
  - vi. Social services to members of the Church;
  - vii. Co-operate and assist other Coptic Orthodox Churches;
  - viii. Carry out evangelistic and missionary work;
  - ix. Promote Christian unity guided by the work of the Holy Synod in this respect; and

---

**His Holiness Pope Tawadros II**  
Pope of Alexandria & the Patriarch of  
the See of St Mark  
Date:

---

**His Eminence Metropolitan Tadros**  
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of  
Port Said, & Papal Representative  
for the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of  
Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

---

**His Grace Bishop Daniel**  
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese  
of Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

---

**Very Reverend Father Matthew Attia**  
Vicar General of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions

---

**Dr Medhat Guirgis**  
Trustee of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions

---

**Mr Naguib Kaldas**  
Trustee of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions



x. Support the Mother Church in Egypt.

- (25) The Parish shall ensure that the assets and income of the Parish shall be applied solely to further its objects and no portion shall be distributed directly or indirectly to the members of the Parish as genuine compensation for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the Parish.
- (26) In the event of the Parish being dissolved, all assets that remain after such dissolution and the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall be transferred to another Parish with similar purposes, which is charitable at law and which has rules prohibiting the distribution of its assets and income to its members.
- (27) If the Parish is wound up or its endorsement as a deductible gift recipient is revoked (whichever occurs first), any surplus of the following assets shall be transferred to another Parish with similar objects, which is charitable at law, to which income tax deductible gifts can be made:
- A. gifts of money or property for the principal purpose of the Parish;
  - B. contributions made in relation to an eligible fundraising event held for the principal purpose of the Parish; and
  - C. money received by the Parish because of such gifts and contributions.

---

**His Holiness Pope Tawadros II**  
Pope of Alexandria & the Patriarch of  
the See of St Mark  
Date:

---

**His Eminence Metropolitan Tadros**  
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese  
of Port Said, & Papal Representative  
for the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of  
Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

---

**His Grace Bishop Daniel**  
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese  
of Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

---

**Very Reverend Father Matthew Attia**  
Vicar General of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions

---

**Dr Medhat Guirgis**  
Trustee of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions

---

**Mr Naguib Kaldas**  
Trustee of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions



## **RULE 4: THE DIOCESAN GENERAL ADVISORY BOARD AND DIOCESAN GENERAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

- (1) The Diocesan General Advisory Council and its Board shall be concerned with matters affecting the life and growth of the Diocese and the good governance and effectiveness of the Diocese, Parishes and Church Entities, as well as the creation of any by-laws for the Diocese, Parishes and Church Entities. The Diocesan General Advisory Board are responsible for:
- A. overseeing the creation, implementation and compliance of the by-laws of the Diocese, Parishes and Church Entities; and
  - B. ensuring effective channels of communication with the Corporate Trustees, Diocesan General Advisory Council, Diocesan Financial Advisory Board, Parishes and Church Entities.

### **Diocesan General Advisory Council**

- (2) The Diocesan General Advisory Council shall be constituted as follows:
- A. the Bishop or the Papal Representative who shall be an ex-officio member;
  - B. for each Parish in the Diocese, the most senior Parish priest, or the Parish priest that he nominates;
  - C. the secretaries and the treasurers of the Parish Council of each Parish in the Diocese;
  - D. the General Superintendent of Sunday School for the Diocese and of each Parish in the Diocese;
  - E. one (1) member of each Church Entity;
  - F. any other member(s) as appointed by the Corporate Trustees; and
  - G. any other member(s) as appointed by the Pope.

---

**His Holiness Pope Tawadros II**  
Pope of Alexandria & the Patriarch of  
the See of St Mark  
Date:

---

**His Eminence Metropolitan Tadros**  
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of  
Port Said, & Papal Representative  
for the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of  
Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

---

**His Grace Bishop Daniel**  
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese  
of Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

---

**Very Reverend Father Matthew Attia**  
Vicar General of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions

---

**Dr Medhat Guirgis**  
Trustee of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions

---

**Mr Naguib Kaldas**  
Trustee of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions



- (3) The Corporate Trustees shall convene a meeting of the Diocesan General Advisory Council at least once annually.

### **Diocesan General Advisory Board**

- (4) The Diocesan General Advisory Board reports to the Corporate Trustees.
- (5) The Diocesan General Advisory Board shall be constituted as follows:
- A. Chairperson, being the Bishop or the Papal Representative who shall be an ex-officio member;
  - B. Secretary, being the General-Secretary of the Corporate Trustees who shall be an ex-officio member;
  - C. Treasurer, being the Chairperson of the Diocesan Financial Advisory Board who shall be an ex-officio member;
  - D. General Superintendent of Sunday School for the Diocese who shall be an ex-officio member;
  - E. three (3) members from the Parish Priests as elected by a secret ballot at the annual general meeting of the Priests of the Diocese;
  - F. twelve (12) lay members chosen from the treasurers and secretaries of the Parish Councils as elected at the annual meeting of the Diocesan General Advisory Council;
  - G. one (1) lay member of each Church Entity;
  - H. any other member(s) as appointed by the Corporate Trustees; and
  - I. any other member(s) as appointed by the Pope.
- (6) The Corporate Trustees may regulate the meetings and proceedings of the Diocesan General Advisory Board as they deem fit.
- (7) The Diocesan General Advisory Board may delegate any of their powers to a committee, and may from time to time revoke such delegation.

---

**His Holiness Pope Tawadros II**  
Pope of Alexandria & the Patriarch of  
the See of St Mark  
Date:

---

**His Eminence Metropolitan Tadros**  
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese  
of Port Said, & Papal Representative  
for the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of  
Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

---

**His Grace Bishop Daniel**  
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese  
of Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

---

**Very Reverend Father Matthew Attia**  
Vicar General of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions

---

**Dr Medhat Guirgis**  
Trustee of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions

---

**Mr Naguib Kaldas**  
Trustee of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions



- (8) Each Parish Council is to have no more than one (1) representative on the Diocesan General Advisory Board.
- (9) Except for the Bishop or Papal Representative, the term of the members of the Diocesan General Advisory Board shall be four (4) years from the date they were last appointed. A retiring member of the Diocesan General Advisory Board shall be eligible for re-appointment.
- (10) The Corporate Trustees, in their absolute discretion, may determine the powers and authority of the Diocesan General Advisory Board to make decisions.

for discussion purposes

---

**His Holiness Pope Tawadros II**  
Pope of Alexandria & the Patriarch of  
the See of St Mark  
Date:

---

**His Eminence Metropolitan Tadros**  
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese  
of Port Said, & Papal Representative  
for the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of  
Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

---

**His Grace Bishop Daniel**  
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese  
of Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

---

**Very Reverend Father Matthew Attia**  
Vicar General of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions

---

**Dr Medhat Guirgis**  
Trustee of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions

---

**Mr Naguib Kaldas**  
Trustee of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions



## **RULE 5: THE DIOCESAN FINANCIAL ADVISORY BOARD**

- (1) The Diocesan Financial Advisory Board shall be concerned with ensuring financial transparency, accountability, and the financial good governance and effectiveness of the Diocese, Parishes and Church Entities, as well as the creation of any by-laws for the Diocese, Parishes and Church Entities. The Diocesan Financial Advisory Board are also responsible for:
  - A. overseeing the creation, implementation and compliance of the financial by-laws of the Diocese, Parishes and Church Entities;
  - B. the preparation and publication, through the official communication channels of the Diocese, of the financial statements of the Diocese, within ninety (90) days after the end of the financial year; and
  - C. maintaining effective channels of communication with the Corporate Trustees, Diocesan General Advisory Council, Parishes, and Church Entities.
- (2) The Diocesan Financial Advisory Board reports to the Corporate Trustees.
- (3) The Diocesan Financial Advisory Board shall be constituted as follows:
  - A. seven (7) Treasurers as elected by the Treasurers of the Parishes and Church Entities at the annual meeting of the Diocesan General Advisory Council.
  - B. any other lay member(s) as appointed by the Corporate Trustees; and
  - C. any other lay member(s) as appointed by the Pope.
- (4) The Diocesan Financial Advisory Board shall elect from their members:
  - A. Chairperson, who shall be the General-Treasurer of the Diocese; and
  - B. Secretary.
- (5) The Corporate Trustees may regulate the meetings and proceedings of the Diocesan Financial Advisory Board as they deem fit.

---

**His Holiness Pope Tawadros II**  
Pope of Alexandria & the Patriarch of  
the See of St Mark  
Date:

---

**His Eminence Metropolitan Tadros**  
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese  
of Port Said, & Papal Representative  
for the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of  
Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

---

**His Grace Bishop Daniel**  
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese  
of Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

---

**Very Reverend Father Matthew Attia**  
Vicar General of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions

---

**Dr Medhat Guirgis**  
Trustee of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions

---

**Mr Naguib Kaldas**  
Trustee of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions



- (6) The Diocesan Financial Advisory Board may delegate any of their powers to a committee, and may from time to time revoke such delegation.
- (7) The term of the members of the Diocesan Financial Advisory Board shall be four (4) years from the date they were last appointed. A retiring member of the Diocesan Financial Advisory Board shall be eligible for re-appointment.
- (8) The Corporate Trustees, in their absolute discretion, may determine the powers and authority of the Diocesan Financial Advisory Board.
- (9) The General-Treasurer and Secretary shall be duly authorised to communicate with any financial institutions and government regulatory authorities in relation to the financial affairs of the Diocese, Parish or Church Entity.

for discussion purposes

---

**His Holiness Pope Tawadros II**  
Pope of Alexandria & the Patriarch of  
the See of St Mark  
Date:

---

**His Eminence Metropolitan Tadros**  
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese  
of Port Said, & Papal Representative  
for the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of  
Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

---

**His Grace Bishop Daniel**  
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese  
of Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

---

**Very Reverend Father Matthew Attia**  
Vicar General of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions

---

**Dr Medhat Guirgis**  
Trustee of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions

---

**Mr Naguib Kaldas**  
Trustee of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions



## **RULE 6: THE CORPORATE TRUSTEES OF THE COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH (NSW) PROPERTY TRUST**

- (1) There is constituted by the Act a corporate body under the corporate name of the Coptic Orthodox Church (NSW) Property Trust.
- (2) The functions of the Trust and the powers and responsibilities of the corporate body of trustees are set out in the Act.
- (3) The members of the corporate body of trustees shall not be less than seven (7) members and shall be constituted as follows:
  - A. One (1) member being the Bishop or Papal Representative.
  - B. One (1) member shall be the Chairperson of the Diocesan Financial Advisory Board who shall be an ex-officio member; and
  - C. Five (5) members shall be lay members approved by the Pope or any member(s) appointed by the Pope.
- (4) The five (5) lay members of the corporate body of trustees shall be elected by a Review Committee comprising of seven (7) of the most senior hegumen clergy in the Diocese (to be determined by years of ordination).
  - A. Each Parish Council may propose one (1) lay person to be a member of the corporate body of trustees.
  - B. The Review Committee shall vote for five (5) lay persons to be members of the corporate body of trustees.
  - C. The Review Committee shall present to the Pope the names of elected individuals and their qualifications.
  - D. The Pope has the right to either accept or refuse an elected individual depending upon the suitability of the candidate.
  - E. An elected individual shall be a member of the corporate body of trustees upon the approval of the Pope.

---

**His Holiness Pope Tawadros II**  
Pope of Alexandria & the Patriarch of  
the See of St Mark  
Date:

---

**His Eminence Metropolitan Tadros**  
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of  
Port Said, & Papal Representative  
for the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of  
Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

---

**His Grace Bishop Daniel**  
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese  
of Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

---

**Very Reverend Father Matthew Attia**  
Vicar General of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions

---

**Dr Medhat Guirgis**  
Trustee of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions

---

**Mr Naguib Kaldas**  
Trustee of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions





- F. A casual vacancy in the members of the corporate body of trustees shall be filled in the same manner by the Review Committee, or by direct appointment by the Pope.
- (5) The Chairperson of the Diocesan Financial Advisory Board shall be a member of the corporate body of trustees upon approval by the Pope.
- (6) The corporate body of trustees shall by secret ballot elect the General-Secretary. The General-Secretary shall be the secretary of the corporate body of trustees and shall maintain the register of resolutions of the Trust, and to keep the Trust's seal in safe custody.
- (7) Except for the ex-officio members, the term of the members of the corporate body of trustees shall be four (4) years from the date they were last appointed. A retiring member of the corporate body of trustees shall be eligible for re-appointment.
- (8) The Pope may at any time terminate the appointment of the members of the corporate body of trustees and appoint any other member as the Pope may deem fit.
- (9) The Interim Trustees may appoint the initial members of the corporate body of trustees after the adoption of this Constitution to allow for a transition period.
- (10) The seal of the Trust is to be kept by the General-Secretary of the Trust and is to be affixed to a document only:
- A. Only with the authority of a simple majority resolution of all the members of the corporate body of Corporate Trustees;
- B. In the presence of two (2) members of the corporate body of trustees; and
- C. By writing the words near the common seal of the Trust:

*"The Common Seal of the COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH (NSW)  
PROPERTY TRUST A.B.N. 61 746 813 182 was hereto affixed pursuant to  
the resolution of the Corporate Trustees dated \_\_\_\_\_"*

---

**His Holiness Pope Tawadros II**  
Pope of Alexandria & the Patriarch of  
the See of St Mark  
Date:

---

**His Eminence Metropolitan Tadros**  
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese  
of Port Said, & Papal Representative  
for the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of  
Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

---

**His Grace Bishop Daniel**  
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese  
of Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

---

**Very Reverend Father Matthew Attia**  
Vicar General of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions

---

**Dr Medhat Guirgis**  
Trustee of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions

---

**Mr Naguib Kaldas**  
Trustee of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions



- (11) All legal issues which affect the Church, the Bishop, the Diocese, the Parishes, or the Trust Property are within the exclusive jurisdiction of the corporate body of trustees of the Trust.
- (12) The corporate body of trustees shall be responsible for the Coptic Orthodox Colleges and for the appointment of the directors to the Coptic Orthodox Colleges, having regard to the recommendations of the current directors and to the laws and regulations that govern the Coptic Orthodox Colleges. The Coptic Orthodox Colleges report to the corporate body of trustees.
- (13) The corporate body of trustees may regulate their meetings and proceedings as it deems fit.
- (14) The corporate body of trustees shall ensure that the assets and income of the Diocese, a Parish or a Church Entity shall be applied solely to further their objects and no portion shall be distributed directly or indirectly to their members except as genuine compensation for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the Diocese, or a Parish or a Church Entity.
- (15) In the event of the Diocese, a Parish or a Church Entity is dissolved, the corporate body of trustees shall ensure that all assets that remain after such dissolution and the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall be transferred to another organisation with similar purposes, which is charitable at law and which has rules prohibiting the distribution of its assets and income to its members.
- (16) In the event that the Diocese, or a Parish or a Church Entity is wound up or its endorsement as a deductible gift recipient is revoked (whichever occurs first), any surplus of the following assets shall be transferred to another organisation with similar objects, which is charitable at law, to which income tax deductible gifts can be made:
  - A. gifts of money or property for the principal purpose of the organisation;
  - B. contributions made in relation to an eligible fundraising event held for the principal purpose of the organisation; and
  - C. money received by the organisation because of such gifts and contributions.

---

**His Holiness Pope Tawadros II**  
Pope of Alexandria & the Patriarch of  
the See of St Mark  
Date:

---

**His Eminence Metropolitan Tadros**  
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of  
Port Said, & Papal Representative  
for the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of  
Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

---

**His Grace Bishop Daniel**  
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese  
of Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

---

**Very Reverend Father Matthew Attia**  
Vicar General of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions

---

**Dr Medhat Guirgis**  
Trustee of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions

---

**Mr Naguib Kaldas**  
Trustee of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions



## RULE 7: THE CLERICAL COUNCIL

- (1) The Clerical Council is the tribunal authorised by the Church to adjudicate applications for remarriage, grant or refuse permissions to remarry and all related family affairs as well as cases involving alleged moral and disciplinary offenses of clergy and lay members of the Church. The Clerical Council determines matters before it in accordance with the Church doctrines, teachings, traditions, rites and canons.
- (2) The Clerical Council of the Diocese receives its authority and its constitution from the Holy Synod of the Church.
- (3) The Clerical Council of the Diocese is presided over by the Bishop or the Papal Representative and is composed of four (4) other members who are canonical priests of the Diocese.
  - A. At the annual general meeting of the Priests of the Diocese, the Vicar General and the most senior priest of the Diocese shall call for nominations from the Priests for membership to the Clerical Council.
  - B. The Priests shall vote for four (4) nominees to be members of the Clerical Council. The vote shall be a secret ballot.
  - C. The Vicar General and the most senior priest of the Diocese shall record the votes to determine the four (4) priests who are elected to the Clerical Council.
  - D. A casual vacancy in the Clerical Council shall be filled in the same manner.
- (4) The Clerical Council is the permanent and semi-permanent ecclesiastical punitive measures cannot be executed against any person in the Church unless investigated and ratified by the Clerical Council.
- (5) Decisions of the Clerical Council of the Diocese can be appealed to the General Clerical Council in Egypt presided by the Pope.
- (6) Decisions of the General Clerical Council in Egypt can be appealed to the Holy Synod of the Coptic Orthodox Church, which has the right to accept or refuse this final appeal. Any member of the Church can make an appeal.

---

**His Holiness Pope Tawadros II**  
Pope of Alexandria & the Patriarch of  
the See of St Mark  
Date:

---

**His Eminence Metropolitan Tadros**  
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese  
of Port Said, & Papal Representative  
for the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of  
Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

---

**His Grace Bishop Daniel**  
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese  
of Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

---

**Very Reverend Father Matthew Attia**  
Vicar General of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions

---

**Dr Medhat Guirgis**  
Trustee of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions

---

**Mr Naguib Kaldas**  
Trustee of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions



## **RULE 8: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PARISHES OF THE DIOCESE OF SYDNEY AND AFFILIATED REGIONS, AUSTRALIA AND THE MOTHER CHURCH OF ALEXANDRIA**

- (1) *(This rule cannot be changed)* Each Coptic Orthodox Church Parish in the Diocese is an indivisible part of the Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria (Egypt) which has as its supreme head the Pope, and derives its authority to function in every respect from the Holy Synod of the Coptic Orthodox Church.
- (2) The Pope has the right to transfer outside the Diocese any priests who has been assigned by him from Egypt to serve in the Diocese.
- (3) If a priest is not accepted by the majority of members of the Parish, the Bishop or the Papal Representative, together with the Clerical Council of the Diocese, will determine a suitable outcome.
- (4) The Pope is the supreme head of all monasteries, convents, religious orders, and seminaries in the entire See of St Mark. The Pope has the right to assign these religious organisations to the Patriarchate in Alexandria, Egypt, or to the Diocese in which they are located<sup>iv</sup>.
- (5) No new monastery, convent, religious order, or seminary can be founded except with consent of the Pope.

---

**His Holiness Pope Tawadros II**  
Pope of Alexandria & the Patriarch of  
the See of St Mark  
Date:

---

**His Eminence Metropolitan Tadros**  
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese  
of Port Said, & Papal Representative  
for the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of  
Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

---

**His Grace Bishop Daniel**  
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese  
of Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

---

**Very Reverend Father Matthew Attia**  
Vicar General of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions

---

**Dr Medhat Guirgis**  
Trustee of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions

---

**Mr Naguib Kaldas**  
Trustee of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions



## **RULE 9: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PARISHES IN THE DIOCESE OF SYDNEY AND AFFILIATED REGIONS AND THE DIOCESE TO WHICH THEY BELONG**

- (1) The Bishop or the Papal Representative is the responsible head of the Diocese in accordance with the traditions and canons of the Coptic Orthodox Church.
- (2) The Bishop or the Papal Representative shall appoint priests to serve the Parishes in the Diocese from amongst suitably qualified persons in the Diocese, or elsewhere in the See of St Mark. The Parish parishioners have the right to nominate a priest.
- (3) The priests and deacons are bound by the spiritual advice of the Bishop or the Papal Representative. The priests and deacons are accountable to the Bishop of the Diocese where they are serving. The Bishop cannot render any judgement on any priest or deacon except through the Clerical Council of the Diocese.
- (4) The Bishop or the Papal Representative, the Corporate Trustees, the Diocesan Financial Advisory Board, and the Diocesan General Advisory Board shall be responsible for the good governance and effectiveness of the Parishes and the creation of any by-laws for the Parishes.
- (5) The Corporate Trustees, the Diocesan Financial Advisory Board, and the Diocesan General Advisory Board are responsible to define the relationship between the Parishes in the Diocese and to set up the boundaries of the services of each Parish.

---

**His Holiness Pope Tawadros II**  
Pope of Alexandria & the Patriarch of  
the See of St Mark  
Date:

---

**His Eminence Metropolitan Tadros**  
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese  
of Port Said, & Papal Representative  
for the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of  
Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

---

**His Grace Bishop Daniel**  
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese  
of Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

---

**Very Reverend Father Matthew Attia**  
Vicar General of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions

---

**Dr Medhat Guirgis**  
Trustee of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions

---

**Mr Naguib Kaldas**  
Trustee of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions



## RULE 10: AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- (1) Notwithstanding Rule 1(1), Rule 1(2), and Rule 8(1), this Constitution may not be amended at any time unless:
- A. The General-Secretary of the Diocesan General Advisory Council has provided written notice of any proposed amendment(s) to this Constitution to the Diocesan General Advisory Council. The notice period prior to any vote on the proposed amendment(s) to this Constitution is to be a period of no less than six (6) months. At the expiry of the six (6) month notice period the members of the Diocesan General Advisory Council are to vote on the proposed amendment(s). The proposed amendment(s) require the vote of seventy-five percent (75%) of the members of the Diocesan General Advisory Council; and
  - B. After the proposed amendment(s) to this Constitution have been approved by a vote of seventy-five percent (75%) of all the members of the Diocesan General Advisory Council, the proposed amendment(s) are to be put to the Corporate Trustees for their consideration. The proposed amendment(s) require the unanimous written approval of the Corporate Trustees; and
  - C. After the proposed amendment(s) to this Constitution have been given the unanimous written consent of the Corporate Trustees, the proposed amendment(s) are to be provided to the Pope. The Pope has the right to either accept or refuse the proposed amendment(s) to this Constitution.

---

**His Holiness Pope Tawadros II**  
Pope of Alexandria & the Patriarch of  
the See of St Mark  
Date:

---

**His Eminence Metropolitan Tadros**  
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese  
of Port Said, & Papal Representative  
for the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of  
Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

---

**His Grace Bishop Daniel**  
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese  
of Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

---

**Very Reverend Father Matthew Attia**  
Vicar General of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions

---

**Dr Medhat Guirgis**  
Trustee of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions

---

**Mr Naguib Kaldas**  
Trustee of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions



## DEFINITIONS

- (1) “**Act**” means the *Coptic Orthodox Church (NSW) Property Trust Act 1990*.
- (2) “**Bishop**” means the Bishop of the Church or, if the Bishop of the Church is absent from New South Wales or otherwise unable to perform the functions of office, or there is a vacancy in the See, the person appointed by the Pope for the time being entitled to perform the functions of the office of Bishop according to the rules and customs of the Church.
- (3) “**Church**” means the Coptic Orthodox Church, a hierarchical Christian body whose leader, overseer and shepherd is the Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St. Mark, and includes any Church entity.
- (4) “**Church Entity**” means a body, corporate or unincorporate, established by the Church which:
  - A. has objectives not inconsistent with those of the Church as set out in the constitution; and
  - B. is certified in writing by the Corporate Trustees to be a Church entity.
- (5) “**Diocese**” means the Coptic Orthodox Church, Diocese of Sydney and its Affiliated Regions that has been established by His Holiness Pope Shenouda III. The Affiliated Regions of the Diocese include any other region nominated by the Pope.
- (6) “**Coptic Orthodox Colleges**” refers to the corporation known as the NSW Coptic Orthodox Board of Education Ltd and its successors, governing the following Coptic Orthodox Church colleges and their campuses:
  - A. St Mark's Coptic Orthodox College;
  - B. St Mary & St Mina's Coptic Orthodox College;
  - C. St Mary & St Mina's Coptic Orthodox College; and
  - D. St Bishoy Coptic Orthodox College,

---

**His Holiness Pope Tawadros II**  
Pope of Alexandria & the Patriarch of  
the See of St Mark  
Date:

---

**His Eminence Metropolitan Tadros**  
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of  
Port Said, & Papal Representative  
for the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of  
Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

---

**His Grace Bishop Daniel**  
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese  
of Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

---

**Very Reverend Father Matthew Attia**  
Vicar General of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions

---

**Dr Medhat Guirgis**  
Trustee of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions

---

**Mr Naguib Kaldas**  
Trustee of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions



and including any other College established by the Diocese.

- (7) **“corporate trustees”** and **“corporate body of trustees”** include corporate bodies of trustees now or hereafter to be constituted for the Church under the Act.
- (8) **“Interim Trustees”** means the trustees appointed by a written Decree of His Eminence Metropolitan Tadros dated 17 January 2020 issued with the authority of His Holiness Pope Tawadros II and the authority of the Holy Synod of the Coptic Orthodox Church appointing trustees to manage the temporal affairs of the Diocese and authorised to do all acts as may be required for the good governance and effectiveness of the Diocese, its Parishes and its Church Entities.
- (9) **“Papal Representative”** means the individual appointed by the Pope, in the Pope’s absolute discretion, to carry out or oversee the duties and responsibilities of the office of Bishop. The Papal Representative shall take precedence over the Bishop.
- (10) **“Parish”** means a community of the faithful within a particular church, whose pastoral care has been entrusted to a parish priest under the authority of the Bishop.
- (11) **“Pope”** means the leader, overseer and shepherd of the Church being the Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St. Mark.
- (12) **“Treasurers”** means the lay treasurers of the Parish Council of each Parish in the Diocese and the lay treasurers of each of the Church Entities.
- (13) **“Trust”** means the Coptic Orthodox Church (NSW) Property Trust constituted by the Act.
- (14) **“Trust Property”** means property vested in or acquired by the Trust.

<sup>i</sup> Constitution and By-laws of the Holy Synod, June 1985. Articles 1, 4, 8

<sup>ii</sup> Constitution and By-laws of the Holy Synod, June 1985. Articles 2, 6

<sup>iii</sup> Constitutions and By-laws of the Holy Synod June 1985, articles (7) and (9)

<sup>iv</sup> Article 58 in the Constitution and By-laws of the Holy Synod

---

**His Holiness Pope Tawadros II**  
Pope of Alexandria & the Patriarch of  
the See of St Mark  
Date:

---

**His Eminence Metropolitan Tadros**  
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of  
Port Said, & Papal Representative  
for the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of  
Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

---

**His Grace Bishop Daniel**  
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese  
of Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

---

**Very Reverend Father Matthew Attia**  
Vicar General of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions

---

**Dr Medhat Guirgis**  
Trustee of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions

---

**Mr Naguib Kaldas**  
Trustee of the Coptic Orthodox  
Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated  
Regions