

Bill No. 5

Proposer: The Revd Canon Gillian Wharton

Embargoed Until Delivery • Check Against Delivery

Bishop, in proposing this Bill, on behalf of the Honorary Secretaries, I want to acknowledge the careful, considered and visionary work undertaken by the Diocese of Tuam, Killala and Achonry and the Diocese of Limerick and Killaloe, and by Bishop Rooke and Bishop Kearon, to prepare for a new way forward. Those who served on the Commission on Episcopal Ministry, Structures and Boundaries are all too well aware of the work required to achieve what those two dioceses have achieved over the last number of years.

The Bill that was passed by General Synod 2019, and by both dioceses subsequently, provided for the uniting of the diocese under one bishop at a future date, and that when either of the bishops would retire, that the remaining bishop would become the bishop of the two united dioceses in the new See of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe. That Bill did not provide for the situation where both bishops might retire at the same time after all the Bills had been passed and communicated to the Honorary Secretaries, and this Bill is to deal with the situation that will now arise, as both Bishop Kearon and Bishop Rooke have announced their intention to retire on 31st October 2021.

The new See will come into effect on 1st November 2021.

This Bill is to facilitate the electoral procedure to take place and an electoral college to be called for the new See of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe.