

GENERAL SYNOD 2010

**BILL NO 2 – Proposed by the Venerable David Pierpoint
Archdeacon of Dublin**

EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Your Grace.

This bill comes before you today at the request of The Diocesan Synods of Dublin and Glendalough and concerns the making of a new provision of certain parishes in the City of Dublin.

By way of introduction, a statute of General Synod 1970 bears the title “*To provide for the grouping or union of certain parishes in the city of Dublin with the Collegiate and Cathedral Church of St Patrick*”.

Nothing in the relevant statute diminishes or derogates the “*rights, prerogatives and privileges of the Dean and Chapter of St Patrick’s Cathedral*”.

The dean of St Patrick’s Cathedral is the incumbent of the group or union and the schedule sets out that a vicar is appointed for the pastoral day to day work of the said group or union and is also a Canon of St Patrick’s Cathedral.

The bill before you today, is to change this legislation and separate the current group of parishes (incorporating the parishes of St Catherine and St James with St Audoen) from

St Patrick's Cathedral. The actual list of parishes is detailed on page 35 of the bills booklet, paragraph 1 section (i).

In its present form, this group of parishes is under the control of an Incumbent appointed by a non diocesan body, namely the Chapter of St Patrick's Cathedral. It is also relevant to note that the vicar of the group is appointed by a special Board of Patronage, presided over by the Archbishop, however the consent and approval of the Dean of St Patrick's is required for the ratification of any nomination made by this special board. In other words, the Dean of St Patrick's has a veto on the appointment of any vicar to this union. The present situation provides for an incumbent (the dean) who is neither chosen by the archbishop, nor the diocesan Board of Patronage and as such is quite unique in the Church of Ireland. No parish should have its Incumbent appointed by a body made up of those largely from other dioceses.

Prior to the diocesan synods of Dublin and Glendalough, this matter was discussed with the Select Vestry and the parochial nominators, who were in favour of such dissolution of the parish from the cathedral.

St Patrick's Cathedral, being the National Cathedral, is not a church of the diocese of Dublin and the parish does not relate to the Cathedral in any manner except that the vicar is a Canon of the Cathedral and undertakes his canonical duties in the same way as canons from other dioceses.

It has to be said that the dean of Christ Church Cathedral also has the same power of veto, but is appointed by the archbishop and Christ Church Cathedral is the diocesan mother church and enjoys a strong link with the parishes grouped to it.

The Diocesan Synods believe that this change in separating the parish from the Cathedral is good for the parish, as the needs of the parish and those of the Cathedral do not necessarily coincide in the appointment of a vicar.

This is a small parish which only requires an incumbent, not an incumbent and a vicar, and unlike Christ Church Cathedral, it is not practical for it to see the Cathedral as part of its parish, even sharing some services as happens at times in the Christ Church Group.

Your grace, on behalf of the Diocesan Synods of Dublin and Glendalough ,

I move that