

Bill No 9

Explanatory Memorandum

At present the Constitution of the Church of Ireland prescribes that a meeting of the general vestry of each parish, to be known as the Easter vestry, shall be held each year not earlier than twenty days before, and not later than twenty days after, Easter Day.

At present if a parish were to hold their Easter vestry on a Sunday it would be limited in the days available. For example in 2013 there is only one Sunday available prior to Easter, which also happens to fall on a Bank holiday weekend.

This Bill will also allow parishes greater flexibility where a number of Easter vestries are to be held.

REV NIALL SLOANE
VERY REV KENNETH HALL

BILL

To amend Chapter III of the Constitution

WHEREAS at present a meeting of the general vestry of each parish, to be known as the Easter vestry, shall be held each year not earlier than twenty days before, and not later than twenty days after, Easter Day;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that there be greater flexibility for the holding of such meetings;

AND WHEREAS to facilitate this, it is necessary to amend Chapter III of the Constitution;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the clergy and laity of the Church of Ireland, in General Synod assembled in Armagh in the year 2013, and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

1. In this Statute 'Chapter III' refers to Chapter III of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.
2. For section 12 of Chapter I there shall be substituted:

12. A meeting of the general vestry of each parish, to be known as the Easter vestry, shall be held each year not earlier than twenty seven days before, and not later than twenty days after, Easter Day and this meeting may be adjourned from time to time to any day or days not later than the sixth Monday after Easter Day: Provided that the general vestry meeting may not be held on, or adjourned to, a day within the period from the Sunday next before Easter (Palm Sunday) to Easter Day (inclusive).