

BILL NO 3

Explanatory Memorandum

In 2002 the General Synod voted to amend the rubrics in Services in the then *Book of Common Prayer* (Statute of the General Synod 2002, C. iv and v) as a result of which the reference to suicide in the rubric at the start of the Burial Service was deleted.

In 1974 the Canons of the Church of Ireland were altered to include a reference to suicide in order to be consonant with that rubric.

In the light of the recent deletion of the rubric in question, and taking into account current pastoral requirements, this Bill seeks to delete the reference to suicide in Canon 32 (2).

The effect will be to restore the canonical position as it pertained prior to 1974. Suicide was not explicitly included among the exceptions listed in the Canons of 1603, the Irish Canons of 1635 or, indeed, in any of our Church of Ireland Canons since disestablishment: in 1871, 1879, 1889, 1899, 1909, 1926, 1934, 1946, or 1960.

<i>Current Wording:</i>	<i>Wording if the Bill is passed:</i>
(2) A member of the clergy may however exercise discretion in refusing to read the burial service in full where the deceased died unbaptised or had committed suicide or had committed some grievous or notorious sin and not repented of it or had been excluded from Holy Communion under Canon 16 and had not been readmitted thereto.	(2) A member of the clergy may however exercise discretion in refusing to read the burial service in full where the deceased died unbaptised or had committed some grievous or notorious sin and not repented of it or had been excluded from Holy Communion under Canon 16 and had not been readmitted thereto.

THE BISHOP OF CORK, CLOYNE AND ROSS
THE BISHOP OF KILMORE

(at the request of the General Synod)

BILL

To carry into effect a Resolution of the General Synod of 2006 to amend Chapter IX of the Constitution

To carry into effect a Resolution of the General Synod of 2006 to amend Chapter IX of the Constitution in the following terms:

WHEREAS it is desirable to amend in Chapter IX of the Constitution the provisions of the Canon 32(2) of the said Canons concerning the burial of the dead by omitting suicide from the exceptions listed in the said Canon 32(2);

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and by the Clergy and Laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Armagh in the year 2006, and by the authority of the same as follows:

1. In this Statute Chapter IX means Chapter IX of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.
2. In Chapter IX in Canon 32(2) the words 'or had committed suicide' shall be deleted.

Note: The following amendment has been tabled for 2007 to correct the errors concerning the venue and year for consideration of the Bill at the General Synod in Kilkenny in 2007:

That 'Kilkenny in the year 2007' be substituted for 'Armagh in the year 2006' in the seventh line.