

GENERAL SYNOD 2014

BILL NO 3

Proposed by Dean Alistair Grimason, Dean of Tuam

EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Members of Synod may be forgiven if they feel a certain sense of déjà vu at this point in proceedings. But yes, this is another Bill relating to Tuam. There is a good reason for this Bill. It's not just to keep Synod members aware that Tuam is alive and well and thriving under the headship of it's own bishop. The purpose of this Bill is to sort out a discrepancy and confusion which has been ongoing for roughly 90 years.

Originally, the shape and form of the Chapter of Saint Mary's Cathedral was laid down in a statute of 1891. However, a resolution of the General Synod of 1925 tinkered with the provisions of this statute. And down through the years since then, various appointments and lumping together of dignatories and separating of other dignatories, has left the Chapter in a bit of mess. So that, in the end, nothing seemed to bear much resemblance to either 1891 OR 1925.

All this came to light subsequent to last year's meeting of General Synod when, on foot of the Bill passed then, we in Tuam, Killala and Achonry attempted to consolidate the diocesan chapters and discovered that we couldn't make headway in the Tuam end of things because of these discrepancies.

So we sought advice. And we used our own wit, intelligence and experience. And between the jigs and the reels it was decided that the best and by far the simplest way forward is to draw a line under the past and start again with a fresh expression of what constitutes the Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Saint Mary, Tuam. And that, ladies and gentlemen, is the purpose of this Bill.

At present, because of the inheritance of the past, I cannot install any Canons or Dignatories in Saint Mary's. And there are boys and girls sitting in the wings just itching to get their seats onto the marvellous, Italian marble, prebend stalls. So I appeal to Synod.....grant them their hearts desire and pass this Bill.

