

**DIOCESE OF ROCKHAMPTON****ORDINATION OF WOMEN TO THE OFFICE OF PRIEST  
CANON 1991*****Preamble***

Whereas it is expedient to make legislative provision for the ordination of women to the office of priest, and for purposes connected therewith;

BE IT THEREFORE DECLARED AND ESTABLISHED by the Bishop Clergy and Laity of the Diocese of Rockhampton assembled in Synod as follows:

***Short Title***

1. This Canon may be cited as the “Ordination of Women to the Office of Priest Canon 1991”.

***Commencement***

2. This Canon shall come into operation on a date to be fixed by the Bishop-in-Council, being a date after the Appellate Tribunal has given its decision on the reference by the Acting Primate to that Tribunal of eleven (11) questions relating to the ordination of women to the office of priest on 31 August 1990 and 21 September 1990.

***Interpretation***

3. In this Canon:  
“Bishop” means the Bishop of the Diocese;  
“Diocese” means the Diocese of Rockhampton.

***Women may be Ordained in the Diocese as Priests***

4. The Bishop may within the Diocese, ordain a canonically fit woman to the office of priest.

***Form of Ordination***

5. A woman may be ordained in the Diocese to the office of priest in accordance with the appropriate order of service set out in the Ordinal included in the Book of Common Prayer or the Ordinal included in An Australian Prayer Book or in accordance with any other appropriate order of service approved for use in the Diocese.

***Licensing of Women***

6. The Bishop may grant to any woman who has been ordained in Australia or elsewhere to the office of priest a licence to perform the duties of a priest in the Diocese.

***Savings***

7. The power conferred by this Canon is in addition to, and not in substitution for, any power vested in the Bishop immediately before the commencement of this Canon.

***Pastoral Guidelines***

8. (1) The Bishop, after consultation with the Bishop-in-Council may issue, from time to time, pastoral guidelines related to the ordination of women as priests.
- (2) Pastoral guidelines shall be taken into account by members of the Church within the Diocese but shall not be taken to confer any rights or impose any duties on any members of the Church within the Diocese.