



Standards of Professional Behaviour in the Reformed Old Catholic Church ((ROCC))

Introduction

From the outset it is accepted that (ROCC) is a liberal and inclusive church. This means that as well as a freedom of faith, belief and practice, clergy are free to pursue activities and endeavours as they see fit providing that they are legal in their country of residence or origin if they are still subject of those laws. Nothing in this code is intended to remove personal freedoms, rather to convey a professional and credible church that anyone can approach for sacraments or pastoral ministry in full confidence whether for day to day worship or advice as well as at their most vulnerable.

Honesty and Integrity

The clergy of (ROCC) are honest, act with integrity and do not compromise or abuse their position.

Authority, Respect and Courtesy

The clergy of the (ROCC) adhere to accepted practice and procedures where there is disagreement. The college of Bishops will have the final decision based on all available facts. Clergy always display respect and courtesy towards each other, clergy of other churches and the wider faithful and public.

Equality and Diversity

The clergy of (ROCC) always act with fairness and impartiality. They do not discriminate. This is central to the ethics of the (ROCC).

Duties and Responsibilities

The clergy of the (ROCC) are diligent in the exercise of their ministries and responsibilities subject to personal and family commitments. It is for the conscience of the individual minister as to what form their ministry takes, but the ethos of the (ROCC) is inclusive and where possible no one should be turned away.

Confidentiality

The clergy of the (ROCC) treat information given to them as part of their ministry, particularly from the confessional with respect and never disclose it without the consent of the individual and then only where there has been a concern for the safety of the individual.

Discreditable Conduct

The clergy of the (ROCC) behave in a manner which does not discredit church or undermine public confidence in it. This does not remove individual freedoms nor does it remove the appropriate expression of those freedoms. It is intended that the church is a credible Body of Christ who can be relied upon by the vulnerable in complete confidence in times of need.

Challenging and Reporting Improper Conduct

The clergy of the (ROCC) should feel able to report or challenge the conduct of colleagues which has fallen below the Standards of Professional Behaviour.