

Fortnightly Newsletter



POPE FRANCIS ON THE SYNOD

"The Synod then offers us the opportunity to become a listening Church,

to break out of our routine and pause from our pastoral concerns in order to stop and listen.

To listen to the Spirit in adoration and prayer... Finally, it offers us the opportunity to become a Church of closeness.

Let us keep going back to God's own "style" which is closeness, compassion and tender love.

(Pope Francis, 9 October 2021)

Information for the Listening Church Process



PLEASE SHOW OFF

The diocese is really keen to hear about best practice. If you have found a good way to engage with people please let us know.
synod@cda.org.nz

INFORMATION SESSIONS

Requests have been made that we hold further information sessions, these will occur. Tuesdays 8 Feb and 15 Feb 7pm, Please register on website.

BEING SYNOD TOGETHER -HELP AT HAND

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/synod/>

For advice, guidance and resources for this stage of the synod people are encouraged to go to the diocesan website.

As more resources are gathered and further information is released it will be uploaded. If something is missing please let us know at synod@cda.org.nz and we will see what we can do.



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- Catholic Diocese of Auckland

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What characterizes a synodal path is the role of the Holy Spirit. We listen, we discuss in groups, but above all we pay attention to what the Spirit has to say to us..

A LITTLE HISTORY

Synodality embraces something much richer than simply a culture of greater consultation and dialogue. This Synod has not come 'out-of-the-blue' but is a continuation of a process begun after the Second Vatican Council.

In response to Vatican II, and because of 'esteem and regard for all the Catholic bishops and with the aim of providing them with abundant means for greater and more effective participation in our concern for the universal Church', Pope Paul instituted the Synod of Bishops as an ongoing forum where representative bishops from around the world could advise him from time to time on particular issues. Since then there have been 15 General Synods; three Extraordinary Synods; and 11 Special Synods held in different regions of the world.

In Chapter III of *The Constitution on the Church - The Hierarchical Structure*, we read that '**synodality is one particular expression of that rightful participation of the local Churches in governance, through consultation**'.

Pope Francis notes that Pope Paul had foreseen that the organisation of the Synod could 'be improved upon with the passing of time' and both John Paul II and Benedict XVI sought to do so, seeking process that complement the spirit of collaboration and collegiality of the Synod of Bishops with processes of discernment in the Church that include all the People of God.

Pope Francis writes that 'we must continue along this path. The world in which we live, and which we are called to love and serve, even with its contradictions, demands that the Church strengthen cooperation in all areas of her mission'. And he adds that it is 'precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium'. His language is compelling: this is what God expects of us.

As always, Pope Francis, brings a spiritual challenge to this concept: far from urging the Church to become a democracy, he is asserting the need for a '**holy union of energies in the service of the common good of the Church**'.

EXPLORING SYNOD

Talking about listening

A Synod with the topic of synodality itself, seems a little extraordinary. A process about a process where the results of diocesan listening sessions are to be compiled into "synthesis" documents, which in turn form the basis for two working documents in advance of the 2023 meeting.

A final document will come from the synod participants, to be followed by a post-synodal document from the pope.

All these documents yet the Handbook tells us "The purpose of this synod is not to produce more documents." !!

The handbook continues:

the synod "is intended to inspire people to dream about the church we are called to be, to make people's hopes flourish, to stimulate trust, to bind up wounds, to weave new and deeper relationships, to learn from one another, to build bridges, to enlighten minds, warm hearts, and restore strength to our hands for our common mission."

Rafael Luciani, one of the expert advisers for the theological commission of the synod notes:

"Synodality demands that we listen and engage in dialogue to establish binding relationships that build church."