





## Around the diocese.

Headlines, themes, commonalities from reports presented by delegates.



### Engaging with the Synod

The Council looked at their experience of the *Synod on Synodality* by standing on a continuum from heavily involved to no involvement. Sr Siân then presented the key elements of the diocesan phase of the synod process as reported to the pre-synodal meeting.

The council then broke into groups to prayerfully reflect on what they had heard using a discernment listening process. At the conclusion of their time, councillors noted |

We are called to:

- have courage to listen to the Holy Spirit & be guided
- be open, authentic, trustworthy
- build leadership.

An image presented was that we are currently in different waka rowing in different directions within the Moana.

- Future Journey: Rowing together – being connected
- Recognise the other waka on the “Same Sea”

Faith communities noted |

- That there was significant excitement that the movement to orange in the protection framework meant Easter ceremonies could be open to all who wished to attend.
- This has also resulted in some communities feeling that it was easier to be welcoming when there was no need to check passes. Other parishes noted that checking passes led to learning people's names and engaging with new people.
- Although numbers attending Sunday Mass have increased since the move to orange they are not yet at pre-Covid levels. However, many communities noted that there is a slow but steady returning.
- The fall in financial returns and volunteer take-up has a significant impact on community life.
- When responding to questions on what has been learnt during the times of restrictions a number of themes emerged:
  - Communication is vital and this is facilitated by accurate parish records.
  - Technology is a valuable tool for contact and evangelisation. People need to be trained in its use and maintenance.
  - Discord around vaccine passes still simmering.
  - Hybrid ministry is hardwork but valuable outreach
  - Restrictions have bought a new appreciation of Sacramental experiences.