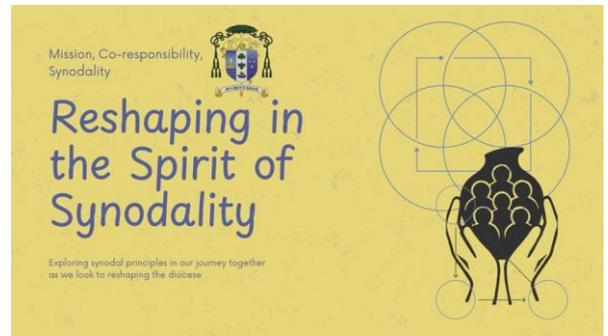


19 January 2026



Kia ora katoa,

The Diocese is entering a significant period of renewal and discernment, with a strong emphasis on **mission, co-responsibility, and synodality**. It is important that leaders at every level are familiar with what it means to be synodal and why it is central to the Reshaping journey.

Synodality is essential to the diocese's reshaping process because it embodies the Church's commitment to communion, participation, and mission. Founded in the tradition of "walking together," synodality invites all the baptized to discern the Holy Spirit's guidance and collectively share wisdom. This inclusive approach fosters deeper engagement, transparency, and trust within communities.

Pope Leo has emphasized that a Church that is walking together (Synodal) is one that listens deeply, enabling it to respond authentically to the joys and wounds of its people, not just the leaders or those with a loud voice. A major tool of the Synodal process are *Conversations in the Spirit*. These can enable pastoral needs to be identified, divisions named, and a culture of dialogue and mutual respect cultivated. The Final Document of the Synod on Synodality calls for the Church to be more participatory and responsive to contemporary challenges. This is the primary purpose of *Conversations in the Spirit*.

As the diocese looks to reshape for mission, synodal listening is a tool to help ensure that reshaping emerges organically from shared discernment. It is a pathway to renewal, unity, and mission-driven vitality.

To support the use of *Conversations in the Spirit* throughout the Reshaping process the diocese is offering short formation sessions to remind leaders of the importance of synodal practices in the journey and to let them experience the process of *Conversation in the Spirit*.

These sessions are an opportunity for leaders of faith communities to explore what it means to walk together and listen to one another as major decisions are made. Although they are offered in deanery clusters participants are welcome at any of the sessions.

Reshaping in the Spirit of Synodality regional formation sessions.

- **24 February** St Joseph's, Takapuna, Hall 7.00-9.00pm
- **26 February** Christ the King, Owairaka, Hall 7.00 -9.00pm
- **4 March** St Patrick's Pukekohe Hall 7.00-9.00pm
- **5 March** St John Vianney, Hillsborough Hall 7.00-9.00pm
- **11 March** OLIC, Ellerslie Hall 7.00-9.00pm
- **14 March** St Therese, Moerewa Parish Centre 10.30-12.30
- **18 April** Poynton Room, Pompallier Centre 10.30-12.30

Registration is essential <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/reshaping-in-the-spirit-of-synodality>
Registrations close three days prior.

Ngā mihi nui.

Pastoral Services Group
Catholic Diocese of Auckland