



# Diocesan Synodal Journey Update

## Building the Kingdom of God Together

*In order to walk together, the Church today needs a conversion to the synodal experience. It needs to strengthen a culture of dialogue, reciprocal listening, spiritual discernment, consensus and communion in order to find areas and ways of joint decision-making and to respond to pastoral challenges. In this way, co-responsibility in the life of the Church will be fostered in a spirit of service....Synodality is a constitutive dimension of the Church. We cannot be Church without recognising a real practice of the sensus fidei of all the People of God. (Amazonian Synod n. 88)*

With this in mind, I will update you on our continuing synodal engagement with the Catholic Church in our Diocese, in Australia and globally.

### Diocesan Synod

The Synod Working Party continues to meet, and the following plans are underway:

Date		Process
<b>2021</b>		
1.	Nov '21 – May '22	<a href="#">"Church without Walls" Series</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Virtual Immersion Experiences</li> <li>Opportunities for people to connect with Mission and Outreach events throughout the year</li> </ul>
2.	22 November	<b>Plenary Council</b> - <a href="#">Virtual Feedback Conversations</a>
3.	10 and 11 November	<b>Bishop's Synod on Synodality</b> - Information Sessions
	10 November 7:00pm to 8:30pm	No need to register - zoom link below. <a href="https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/66510586985">https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/66510586985</a> Password: 935563
	11 November 10:00am to 11:30am	<a href="https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/67038977730">https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/67038977730</a> Password: 491914
4.	Nov'21 – Feb '22	<b>Bishop's Synod on Synodality</b> - Diocesan Response
5.	Nov'21 – Dec '21	<a href="#">Advent Reflection Program</a> (Mystagogical Reflection)

6.	Feb '22	Expression of Interest for Members of Synod - (Interested People)
7.	Feb '22	<b>Plenary Council</b> - Continuing Conversations
8.	March '22 – April '22	Lenten Reflection Program Five Foundations (Mystagogical Reflection)
9.	Pentecost 5 June '22	Launch of Five Foundation Synod Spiritual Conversations (Virtual and face-to-face)
10.	4 – 9 July '22	<b>Plenary Council</b> - Second General Assembly
11.	Nov' 21 – '22	<b>“Hearing the voices”</b> Series – engaging with people from diverse communities
12.	TBC	Diocesan Gathering (Liturgical and Social)

## Plenary Council

At the beginning of October, Bernadette Gibson, Helen Belcher and Fr Andrew Doohan participated in the First General Assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia, while at the same time, many of us engaged remotely. About 70 people from across our diocese joined them beforehand in Plenary Council Conversations around the six themes and 16 questions, which formed the Plenary Council agenda:

1. Conversion
2. Prayer
3. Formation
4. Structures
5. Governance
6. Institutions

Over the coming weeks the fruits from this First General Assembly will be shared with the Catholic community.

On 22 November Bernadette, Helen and Fr Andrew will provide us with feedback about the Plenary Council. [Registration is now open.](#)

In February a series of study, discernment and feedback conversations will be held, regarding the draft Plenary Council documents.



## Bishop's Synod on Synodality

In March 2020, Pope Francis announced that the theme for the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops would be "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission".

The journey towards the celebration of the Synod in October 2023 was opened at the beginning of October 2021 in Rome, and subsequently in each particular Church.

Pope Francis invites the entire Church to reflect on a theme that is decisive for its life and mission: "It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium. This journey, which follows in the wake of the Church's 'renewal' proposed by the Second Vatican Council, is both a gift and a task."

A video, documents, and a response button can be found on: <https://www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>

Information sessions about this will be conducted virtually on Wednesday 10 November, 7pm to 8.30pm and on Thursday 11 November, 10am to 11.30am.

It is anticipated that individuals will engage in reflecting, sharing, and responding. Follow the [Individual Reflection Guide](#). Submissions are invited via the website by 17 December.

Our 10-page final diocesan contribution is due to the National Centre for Pastoral Research by 28 February, 2022.

You are invited to pray the following prayer for the Bishop's Synod:

**As we embrace this Synodal Process, this prayer invites the Holy Spirit to be at work in us so that we may be a community and a people of grace.**

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,  
make Yourself at home in our hearts;  
Teach us the way we must go  
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;  
do not let us promote disorder.  
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path  
nor partiality influence our actions.

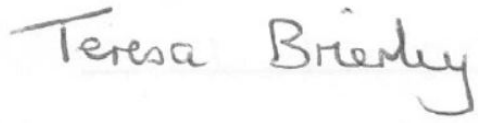
Let us find in You our unity  
so that we may journey together to eternal life  
and not stray from the way of truth  
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,  
who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son,  
forever and ever.

Amen.



Thank you for your continued interest and involvement in our ongoing diocesan synodal journey, which also includes the Plenary Council and Synod on Synodality. Spirituality is an essential element of synodality, and we are learning about it as it unfolds on our journey with each other.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Teresa Brierley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Teresa Brierley

Director Pastoral Ministries