



16 August 2021

Diocesan Synod Update
Building the Kingdom of God Together

A change has been required for our Diocesan Synod journey. The COVID situation and Bishop Bill's continuing ill-health require a delay of Session Three, originally planned for 20 November 2021. This decision was taken after consultation with the Synod Working Party, the Council of Priests, and the Council for Mission.

Despite uncertainties, our synodal journey will continue.

In 2021:

- **Ongoing dialogue** to come to a shared understanding of our ecclesiology and synodal process, involving Members of Synod, Parish Priests and Parish Leaders, Diocesan and Agency Leadership Teams and the wider diocesan community.
- **"Our missionary church – Opening our doors"** involving all Members of Synod, and the wider diocesan community to learn about current activities that implement the Mission and Outreach Foundation.
- **Advent Reflection Program** involving all Members of Synod, and the wider diocesan community
- **Meetings of the various Synod Focus Groups** to progress their work i.e., Foundational Guiding Principles, Discernment of Data, Diocesan Directory, Governance Guiding Principles and Documentation, Event Planning and Liturgy Planning.
- **Meetings of various Diocesan Councils**, supported by Pastoral Ministries, to keep considering the Five Foundations Spiritual Framework agreed at Session Two of Synod. The aim of the Framework is to develop concise, clear statements that will guide the mission and functioning of the whole diocesan community.
- **Assembly One of the Plenary Council** (3 – 10 October). Our four diocesan members to inform and be informed by our diocesan synodal journey.

In 2022:

- Ongoing listening, dialogue, and discernment opportunities
- Lenten Reflection Program
- Session Three of Synod – Ongoing Discernment – date to be determined
- Assembly Two of the Plenary Council (4–9 July)
- Proposed Session Four of Synod – Implementation – date to be determined

In 2023:

- Synod of Bishops on Synodality – Rome, October – based on feedback from the Universal Church including our diocese.

Please note:

Activities will be subject to COVID safe practices and health orders.

Dates will be confirmed as soon as possible.

Throughout this synodal journey, we have become more aware that it is not just an event/s that we were moving towards. Rather, the Synod is a journey calling us to listen to what the Spirit is saying as we move towards the Plenary Council and the Synod of Bishops on Synodality, searching for a new and better way of being Church, of living the gospel and building God's Kingdom together.

Yours in Christ

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Rev Andrew Doohan VG
Vicar General



Teresa Brierley
Synod Moderator

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