

SYNOD SNAPSHOT

Fortnightly Newsletter



For a synodal Church
 communion | participation | mission

Consider yourself invited, all of you, whoever you are, to enter into the process and let your voice be heard.

In this last period of diocesan consultation the question you might ask yourself is this, “if I had the chance to talk to Pope Francis, what would I say to him about the church worldwide?”

So it’s over to you – whatever you think the Pope needs to hear, we want to hear as well. This is really a call to enter into a new way of being the church, and on this journey of the worldwide Synod, the process itself is in many ways the product.

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

REMEMBER

Your response will eventually become part of the diocesan consultation that in turn will become regional, and that in turn will become global when the bishops meet with the Pope and others in Rome in 2023.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

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. In response to request we have prepared and uploaded

- **Facilitator's Guide**
- **Participant's Guide** to help individuals gather

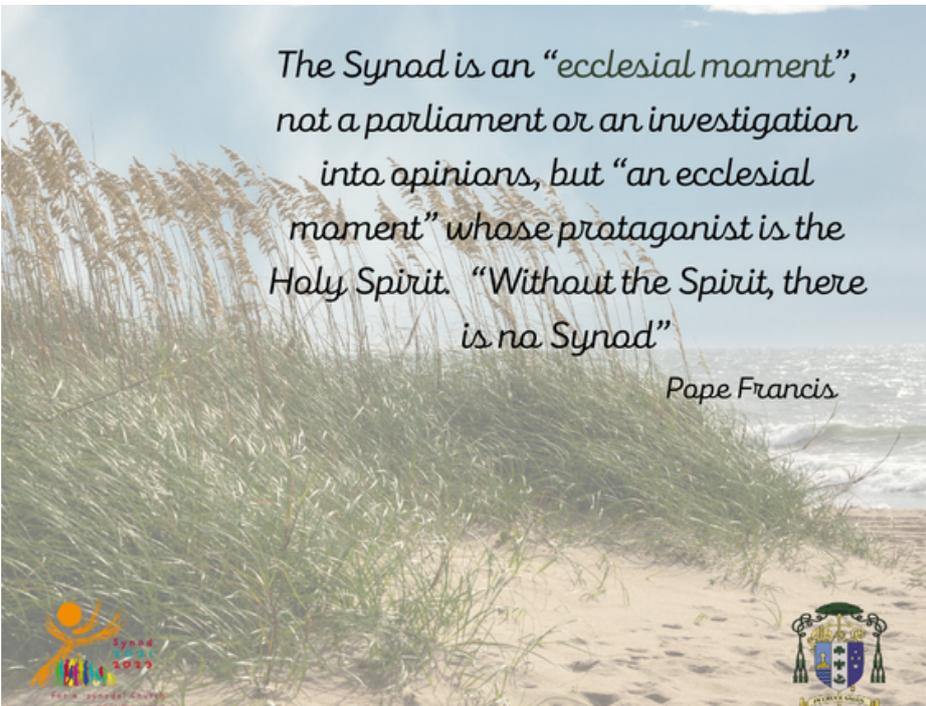
As more resources are gathered and further information is released it will be uploaded. If something is missing please let us know at synod@cda.org.nz and we will see what we can do.



NDCATHOLIC.ORG.NZ

- Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Together | Communion | Participation | Mission Synod 21



*The Synod is an “ecclesial moment”,
not a parliament or an investigation
into opinions, but “an ecclesial
moment” whose protagonist is the
Holy Spirit. “Without the Spirit, there
is no Synod”*

Pope Francis

WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER VOICES?

“Pope Francis wants to hear from you” is the message we are using to invite people – Catholic or not – to take part in a response to the synod and to inform the future direction of the Church.

Bishop of Auckland and Secretary of the NZ Catholic Bishops Conference, Bishop Stephen Lowe, says the country’s six dioceses have embraced the opportunity for people to have their say in synod conversations taking place in parishes, schools and Church organisations.

“We also want to hear from people who are Catholic but may not have much or any contact with the Church, or who are not Catholic but might have views on the Church, so we are asking for feedback from people who haven’t been reached at the parish and diocesan level,” Bishop Lowe said.

The survey is being advertised on Stuff and in social media such as Facebook. Under a photograph of Pope Francis, it asks people whether they had felt welcomed and supported by Catholics, how Catholics could journey with people better, were they currently connected to a Catholic faith community, and what other comments they would like to share.

This national feedback survey closes 22 March. Our diocesan part of the synod process finishes in April. The NZ Catholic Bishops Conference will then prepare a report that will eventually be part of feedback to synod of bishops from around the world in Rome in October next year.

This synod process is officially called For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission. It is the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in the Catholic Church. A synod of bishops is regarded as an advisory body for the Pope. Please promote/share and get people responding. Thanks.
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NZCBCSynod>

The Synod Committee

WHAT’S IT ALL ABOUT?

A reflection

As we take part in the current Synod of Bishops on Synodality, we should keep in mind that Pope Francis’ definition of “synodal” implies and demands an understanding that it is more than just a meeting but rather a specific way of living and operating within the Church.

Throughout the documents prepared for the current synodal consultation, we see Pope Francis emphasizing the need to focus on members walking together, gathering, meeting, and eating, preferably in small groups or circles, to listen to how the Spirit is leading us to be more faithful to our baptismal commitment in this place and time.

One of the most important aspects of this synod is the process itself. It is the Pope’s way of introducing us to and familiarizing us with the principle that we are going to learn about “a new way of assuming co-responsibility for the Church’s evangelizing mission.”

*Our journeying together
includes listening,
dialogue, and
conversation by setting
up a safe place to meet
and allowing all to speak
and be heard through
prayerful silence and
communal discernment.*

The more we listen, the better we begin to understand different perspectives. We want to put in place a process that will, as per the Preparatory Document, “foster a broad consultation process in order to gather the wealth of the experiences of lived synodality, in its different articulations and facets, involving the Pastors and the Faithful.”

While our part may seem small, it is important to remember every piece is integral to the whole. The final synthesis will be made up of conversations with ordinary people like you and me whose differences we need to see and appreciate.

The submission segment is critical to the success of this initiative. It is important that what is said and experienced is faithfully captured so it can be shared broadly with parishes, the New Zealand Bishops, and the universal Church.