

Synod 2021 2023

For a Synodal Church:
communion | participation | mission

Diocese of Palmerston North
Supplementary Resources



Table of Contents

	PAGE
OUTLINE OF SYNODAL PROCESS IN THE DIOCESE	3
IMPLEMENTING THE LISTENING STAGE IN YOUR PARISH	4
PROMOTING THE LISTENING STAGE IN YOUR PARISH	5
TIPS FOR GROUP FACILITATORS	6



Overview of the Diocesan Phase Synod 2021-23

OCTOBER

Preparation Stage.

Opening of Local Phase around the world. Resources are provided and formation offered.

NOVEMBER

Listening Stage.

Submissions are made from across the diocese until November 30th.

DECEMBER

Summary Stage

Drafting of Diocesan Summary Document is underway.

JANUARY

Summary Stage

Draft document is completed. Pre-Synodal Meeting is held.

FEBRUARY

Diocesan Summary Document is sent to New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference (NZCBC). The NZCBC then drafts an overall further summary document which is sent to Rome along with the summaries from each Diocese.



The Listening Stage - in your parish

- Identify who in your parish could be involved in facilitating Discernment Groups.
- Share formation opportunities with these facilitators.
- Identify already established groups in your parish and encourage them gather and submit a Group Response.
- Decide and advertise dates for Discernment Groups, open to all in your parish. *These could be held after or before Mass on the weekend/during the week or on an evening.*
- Share with your parish about this opportunity and encourage them to engage in the process.
- After Discernment Groups have met, Group Responses are submitted either online or by post on behalf of the group. Details for how to do so can be found on Page 14 of the '*Participation Booklet*'.



Tips for promoting the Synod - in your parish

- Have some paper copies of the '*Participation Booklet*' at the back of the Church for people to pick up.
- Put a poster up in the foyer, meeting rooms, office etc.
- Use your parish app, newsletter, email distribution groups and social media to promote the Synod and advertise groups.
- Encourage parishioners to sign up to the digital Diocesan Newsletter to receive regular content about this process. You can advertise: <https://pndioocese.org.nz/newsletter>
- Reach out to those on the peripheries. Have a notice in your parish newsletter encouraging parishioners to forward the link to the "Online Response Tool" (available on our website) to family members, friends, or acquaintances who don't feel connected to the Church.
- Ask your local school to promote ways parents can participate in the process (through email, newsletters, school app etc.)
- Make a list of all groups in the parish and make contact with key leaders, inviting them to participate in this process (to gather in some way and make a submission).
- Key information and resources about the Synod can be accessed at <https://pndioocese.org.nz/synod>



Notes for Group Facilitators

General Suggestions:

Encourage attentive listening, so that the voice of the Holy Spirit can be heard through the group.

Create a quiet, safe atmosphere - where prayer and silence are encouraged so participants have time to reflect thoughtfully on what each person has said.

Be a person of prayer- pray for the group/members and the process.

Remain neutral during the process.

Outline the guidelines with the group:

- Any personal sharing in the group, stays with the group
- Every response/sharing is valid
- Everyone will have the opportunity to share - but there is a time limit, so please be succinct/stick to the point
- Every person will be heard with no interruptions or reactions
- There will be a time of quiet after each sharing
- This is primarily a sharing and discernment process, not a discussion group

Keep order: ensure that everyone has the opportunity to share, that no-one dominates the process and people are not interrupting others while they are sharing

Ensure listening: encourage quiet reflective time after each sharing; You may like to state, "we will now have two/three minutes of quiet while we reflect on what we have heard."

Bring together what has been said: keep note of key ideas, suggest the scribe read out the themes/ ideas that have been mentioned so far, ensure everyone is happy their ideas have been included in the final notes.

Please refer to page 12 of the Synod Booklet: GROUP DISCERNMENT, A SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION