



Synod
2021
2023

For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

POPE FRANCIS
WANTS TO HEAR
FROM YOU!

Synod *in* Schools

CLASSROOM RESOURCE

Diocese of Palmerston North



**EHARA TAKU TOA, I TE TOA TAKITAHĪ,
ĒNGARI E TOA TAKITINI.**

MY SUCCESS IS NOT MINE ALONE, IT IS OURS.
THE GREATEST SUCCESS WE WILL HAVE IS FROM WORKING TOGETHER.

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GETTING INVOLVED

During this significant time in the Church's history, Pope Francis invites ALL of us to reflect on our faith journey and share our vision for the future of the Catholic Church. As a Diocese, we would love to involve as many students and staff from our Catholic schools and their whānau as possible in this process.

DISCUSS

The Diocese has two questions that it invites your students to respond to. To unpack these, we invite you to have a class discussion around how young people feel welcomed and supported by the Catholic community and what could be done better.

PARTICIPATE

Following a class discussion, students are invited to participate in the Synod 2021-2023.

You may like to set one of the suggested activities for students to complete. Alternatively, you could simply record the students' answers during the class discussion and share these by using the Online Submission Tool.

SHARING BACK

Students are encouraged to share their responses with each other, with their whānau and with the Diocese. We have provided information about how to enable your students to share.





DISCUSS

Facilitate a class discussion focussing on the two main questions.

1. In your experience, how have you felt welcomed and supported by the Catholic faith community?

2. In what ways could the Catholic faith community journey with people better?

This class discussion could include any of the following:

- learning a little about what a synod is and why they are being asked to take part;
- talking about what a community that is welcoming and supportive feels like, sharing some experiences/examples;
- exploring what a Catholic faith community is; or
- playing the *Invitation to Participate: Students* video, available on YouTube here: <https://youtu.be/ZEJ6b641lf4>

Please feel free to make any links to curriculum, the lived experience of your students, or anything else you feel is relevant in enabling this class discussion to take place.

Some simple prompts about these discussion topics are included on the following page in the hope of aiding this discussion.

As students share during the discussion, you (or an assigned student) could take notes capturing what is being said to include in the class's submission to the Diocese.

Prompts for Class Discussion

SYNOD

A synod is an invitation for the whole Church to participate, a chance to listen to all people and to the Holy Spirit. This is an invitation to all, regardless of the degree of our connection with the Church. Pope Francis wants to hear from everyone!

Our Diocese has been taking part in the global synod at a parish level. Important to this process is the gathering of the voice of our young church and whānau in our school communities too! The Diocese has got two questions that it invites you to respond to.

For Pope Francis, the voice of young people is so important! Like Jesus, he loves the energy and excitement that you, the young people, bring to the world and so it makes sense he wants to hear from you! Your submissions will be included as part of our national response and sent to Rome!

CATHOLIC FAITH COMMUNITY

When examining the early Church and how Jesus lived with His disciples we find six consistent elements of their life together. They were welcoming, celebrating, learning, reconciling, serving and praying with each other and the larger community. This is what faith communities do.

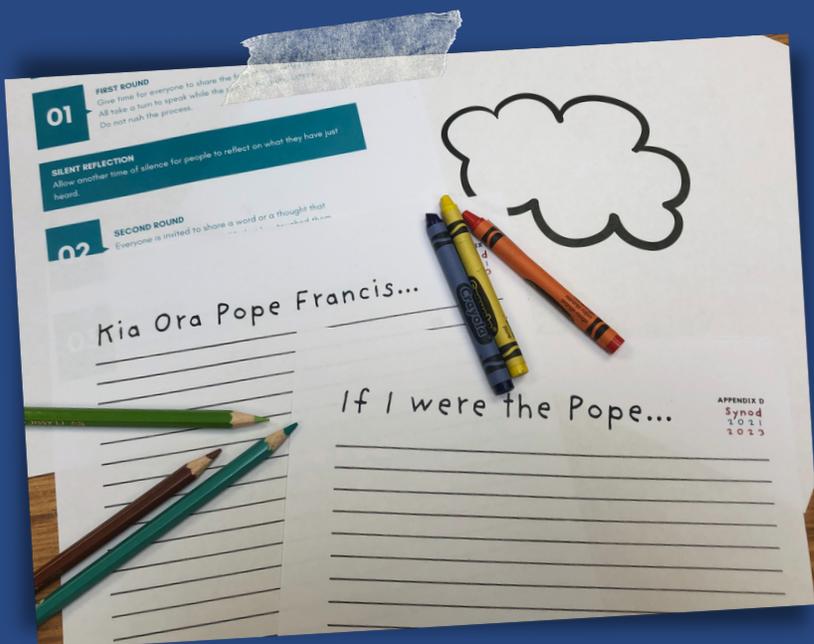
There will be various links here you can make to the RE Curriculum depending on which year level you are teaching. In particular the Church Strand of the current Year 1-8 Curriculum.

PARTICIPATE

Following a class discussion, students are invited to participate in the Synod 2021-2023 in one of the following ways.

1. Choose an activity for your class to complete. Activity suggestions for primary and secondary students are provided on the following two pages.
2. Simply record the students' answers during the class discussion and share these by using the Online Submission Tool, which can be found at pndioocese.org.nz/synodinschools or by scanning the QR code below.

You are invited to choose one of these activities that would best suit your students and are welcome to adapt these activities in any way.



ONLINE
SUBMISSION TOOL



ACTIVITIES

PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

1. DRAWING

Children could draw a picture of what it means to be welcoming and supportive to others OR of a time when they have felt welcomed/supported.

These drawings do not have to be specifically related to the Church/Catholic faith community. Ideally students will express something of the essence of what it means to be welcoming, to include others, and/or a time they have experienced that.

2. CLOUD BRAINSTORM

Older primary school children could be encouraged to do their own 'cloud brainstorm' in response to the initial teacher-led discussion, with a simple question in the cloud and ideas branching off it. Children could be prompted to bear in mind the *Who, What, Where, Why & How* when brainstorming answers.

The question in the middle could be one of the following:

- How have I felt welcomed/supported by the Church?
- What do I wish for in my faith journey as I grow up?
- How could the Church journey with people better?

3. LETTER TO THE POPE

Children (aged 8-13) could be asked to write a letter to the Pope with their hopes and aspirations for the Church (based on the same question above), reinforcing the importance of their individual voices and the possibility they can incite change as the Church works towards being the best it can be for all people.

4. IF I WERE THE POPE ...

Given children love to imagine ideal situations if they were given full responsibility, and to really garner their thoughts on what they'd like to see happen in the Church, they could be given the writing prompt "If I were the Pope and in charge of the Church, I would like to see ..." and contribute a piece of independent writing.

ACTIVITIES

SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Year 9–13 students could use any of the primary school activities (*page 7*) tailored to suit their abilities.

OR

5. SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Secondary school students can be split into small groups for discussion, choosing to answer either one/both of *The Main Questions (page 5)*, **OR** one of the questions given as part of the *Five Big Themes (page 19)*.

A format for small group discussion that has been used around the world for this synod is provided as Appendix E (*page 18*). You may find ways to adapt this process to suit the age of your students.



SHARING BACK

One of the most important parts of this synod process taking place around the world is about listening to one another. By participating in a discussion or completing an activity, your students' thoughts will be part of the submissions received by the Diocese and will contribute to a summary document sent to the Vatican.

CLASSROOM SHARING

In many ways participating in this process provides an opportunity for students to listen to one another, and for teachers to also be able to listen to their students' experiences and dreams.

After students complete one of the activities, you may like to offer an opportunity for sharing back (as a whole class, in small groups or in pairs) to provide students a space to listen to one another's contributions.

The following pages offer suggestions for how students might be able to share and involve their whānau (*page 10*) as well as information about how to share your students' work with the Diocese (*page 11*).

INVOLVING WHĀNAU

In addition to the participation of students in this process, we would love to hear the important voice of our whānau/families connected to our schools. Below are some ways that you might be able to share this opportunity with your students' whānau.

- Copies of class or individual work could be sent home with each child, or included as a 'sight and sign' task for children to share their findings with parents. This would invite parents to join the conversation once it's brought into the home by their child[ren].
- A poster (*provided on the last page of this resource*) could be sent home at the same time as the children's work (as an insert in newsletters or in homework books). The hope is that parents will be encouraged to add their own thoughts to their children's by using an online form. This poster is also available as an image file that could be inserted into newsletters (visit pndiocese.org.nz/synodinschools).
- Information for whānau/families could be included in newsletters and through your school app. An example blurb is included below that you are welcome to adapt or add to. You could also share this video invitation with parents in your digital communication to your school community: <https://youtu.be/A7I3OE7JVkU>

SYNOD 2021-2023: A synodal Church needs to represent ALL of us.

During this significant time in the Church's history, Pope Francis invites ALL of us to reflect on our faith journey and share our vision for the future of the Catholic Church.

Please take some time to consider these two key questions and respond with your heartfelt thoughts:

In your experience, how have you felt welcomed and supported by the Catholic faith community?

In what ways could the Catholic faith community journey with people better?

Together, our prayerful reflections will help deepen and renew the Church's mission in Aotearoa New Zealand and around the world.

Visit pndiocese.org.nz/synodinschools to have your say before 31 March 2022.

SUBMITTING STUDENT RESPONSES

Submissions are open until 31 March 2022.

We would love to receive copies of anything produced by your students participating in this process. This could be drawings, brainstorm, letters, independent writing, etc.

You can submit responses from your students in the following ways:

EMAIL

Email digital copies of your students' completed activities to synod@pndiocese.org.nz

POSTAL RESPONSE

Send in any completed activities from your students by posting them to the below address with a Cover Sheet (Appendix A):

SYNOD 2021-2023

Diocese of Palmerston North

PO Box 5279

Terrace End

Palmerston North 4441

We are happy to receive your submission, take a copy and then return the work to you if you indicate as such.



ONLINE SURVEY

Visit pndiocese.org.nz/synodinschools and follow the link to the Online Submission Tool or scan this QR code to go directly to the form.

Group Cover Sheet

School: _____

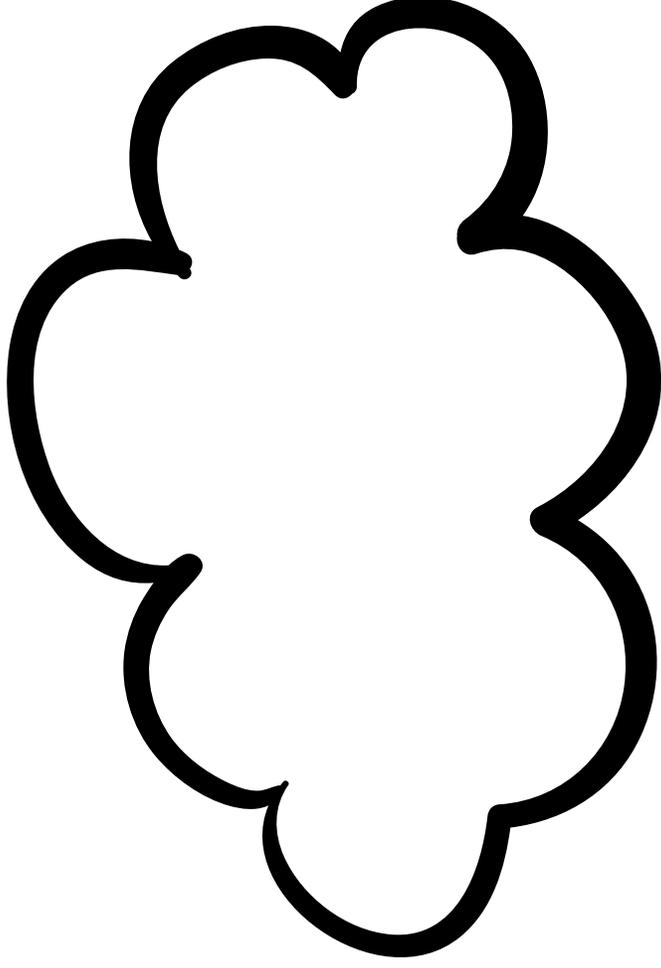
Student Year Level(s): _____

Would you like this submission returned to you?

Yes No

If yes, please provide a name and return address below:

Are there any overall reflections you would like to include with this submission from participating in this process?



Small Group Discussion Outline

A group can choose to either use the two main questions or one of the five detailed questions.

SILENT REFLECTION

Take time for prayerful reflection.

01

FIRST ROUND

Give time for everyone to share the fruit of their reflection. All take a turn to speak while the rest of the group listens. Do not rush the process.

SILENT REFLECTION

Allow another time of silence for people to reflect on what they have just heard.

02

SECOND ROUND

Everyone is invited to share a word or a thought that **SOMEONE ELSE HAS SHARED** that has touched them.

03

THIRD ROUND

Together, the members of the group look at what has stood out. What is the essence of the sharing that has taken place?

Five Big Ideas

1. WELCOME + INCLUSION

- Who do you feel is included/welcome on the Church's journey (both in our country and around the world)? Who is not?
- How can we make it more inclusive and welcoming?

2. LISTENING

- How good are Catholics at listening openly to and working with others, without prejudice or judgement?
- What might stop Catholics from listening more carefully to some in society?

3. CELEBRATING

- In order to 'walk together' in our faith, we must listen communally to the Word and celebrate the Eucharist.
- How does this practice relate to our daily lives?
- How could it be more relevant?

4. LEARNING

- Do you consider Catholics open to change and new learning?
- Do you consider Church leaders to be open to new ways and willing to listen?

5. PARTICIPATION

- How exactly do we as Church members spread the Good News of Jesus Christ?
- How do we encourage participation and leadership among Catholics?

Prayers

From the 'Journeying Together' Prayer Liturgy

So, as we embark on the journey ahead ...

May God bless us with listening ears and open hearts to the world's needs.

May God bless us with responding hearts that call us to follow Jesus. May God bless us with hearts that create communities wherever we are.

May God bless us with the fire of love on our journey.

May we be Christ's face, hands and feet to all those we meet.

WORKING TOGETHER – TE MAHI TAHI

E HĒHU KARAITI,
DURING YOUR LIFE ON EARTH YOU DREW
PEOPLE TOGETHER,
TO LIVE TOGETHER, TO WORK TOGETHER,
TO PRAY TOGETHER.
YOU UNDERSTOOD THAT PEOPLE ARE
HAPPIER
WHEN THEY KNOW AND EXPERIENCE THE
LOVE OF OTHERS.
TEACH US ALWAYS TO INCLUDE EVERYONE
IN OUR WORK, IN OUR GAMES,
IN OUR JOYFUL TIMES, AND IN OUR SAD
TIMES.
POPE FRANCIS SAID,
THE ONLY FUTURE WORTH BUILDING
INCLUDES EVERYONE.
MAY WE PLAY A PART
IN BUILDING STRONGER
AND HAPPIER COMMUNITIES.
AMEN.

FROM THE CARITAS LENT PRAYER BOOKLET 2018

JOURNEY TOGETHER – HAERE NGĀTAHI

TWO ARE BETTER THAN ONE,
BECAUSE THEY HAVE
A GOOD REWARD FOR THEIR TOIL.
FOR IF THEY FALL ONE WILL LIFT THE OTHER...
ECCLESIASTES 4:9-10

E TE ATUA O TE AROHA,
GOD OF LOVE,
THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT OF FRIENDSHIP.
THANK YOU FOR THOSE WHO WALK WITH US
DURING THE UPS AND DOWNS OF LIFE.
IN THE WORDS OF POPE FRANCIS,
HELP US TO REGAIN THE CONVICTION
THAT WE NEED ONE ANOTHER.
WHEN WE ARE TEMPTED TO GO IT ALONE,
TEACH US THE VALUE
OF COMMUNITY
AND CO-OPERATION.
HELP US TO TAKE SERIOUSLY
OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY
FOR OTHERS AND FOR THE WORLD.
AMEN.

FROM THE CARITAS LENT PRAYER BOOKLET 2018

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Yours are the only hands with which he can do his work.

Yours are the only feet with which he can go about the world.

Yours are the only eyes through which his compassion can shine forth upon a troubled world.

Christ has no body on earth but yours.

- Saint Teresa of Ávila



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In your experience, how have you felt welcomed and supported by the Catholic faith community?

In what ways could the Catholic faith community journey with people better?



Share your thoughts by scanning the QR Code above or
visiting pndiocese.org.nz/synodinschools
OPEN UNTIL 31 MARCH 2022