

## 10. WALKING WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS/ECUMENISM

Walking with other Christians is essential to our mission to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

- How well do we as Catholics know our sisters and brothers in other churches?
- What do we share and how do we journey with Christians from other churches (denominations)?
- Why don't we do more together?

## LISTENING & DIALOGUE PROCESS

1. PRAY together using the Scripture of the day and the Sandhurst Prayer for the Synod (10mins)
2. READ the question(s) and REFLECT (up to 20mins)
3. SHARE and LISTEN (up to 60mins)
4. REGATHER and PRAY (up to 20 mins)
5. RESPOND: You are now invited to prepare a response of up to 250 words. The submission can consider points like:

- Is there a common thread in what was shared? Is there something missing that you had expected would be said?
- Have you received any particular insight or revelation? What is it?
- Where did you experience a sense of harmony with others as you shared with one another?
- What are the feelings of the group? Is there consensus or disagreement?
- What is the way forward?

## HAVE YOUR SAY

1. Online, by 13 MARCH 2022 using the **SUBMIT YOUR RESPONSE HERE** button at <https://www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>  
Or use the QR Code below to visit the page.



2. While online responses are preferred, you may wish to contact the Sandhurst Chancery to submit your response on your behalf by 2 MARCH 2022.

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## MORE INFORMATION

Diocese of Sandhurst:

[www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au](http://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au)

ACBC: [www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch](http://www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch)



Material adapted from the Archdiocese of Wellington Synod Resource. Used with permission.



## Coffee Conversations

**Preparing for the Synod:**  
**Let's walk together with one another**

### Prayer for the Synod

*(Adapted)*

*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.*

*Let us find in You our unity  
so that we may journey together to eternal life  
and remain faithful to 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.**

**Welcome and thank you for participating!**

## **We want to hear from you!**

To start your conversation, choose one or more topics from 1-10, then reflect on the questions. Use the process from the Plenary Council “Listening & Dialogue” phase (outlined after Topic 10 below).

## **COMMUNION**

### **1. COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY**

**Jesus wants us to walk together, side by side.**

- How do you feel we as Catholics are doing at walking side-by-side?
- Who do you feel is included / welcome on the church’s local journey?
- Who is not included or welcomed?

### **2. OUR LISTENING**

**Listening is the first step - it requires an open mind and heart, without prejudice.**

- How good are we Catholics at listening?
- Who do we need to listen to more? (Consider – women, young people, lay people, those on the margins of society, minority groups, the socially discarded and excluded.)
- What stops us from listening more carefully?

### **3. OUR SPEAKING OUT**

**Everyone is invited to speak boldly and courageously in freedom, truth and love.**

- How good are we as Catholics at speaking out in public?
- How do we say what is important to us as Catholics?
- What helps or hinders our public visibility?

### **4. OUR CELEBRATION**

**For Catholics, ‘togetherness’ is based on gathering to explore the Gospels (Word) and to break bread (Eucharist).**

- Are our Catholic gatherings achieving their purpose for our people?
- How does our gathering for prayer (including Mass) meet people’s needs?
- How do they fail to meet people’s needs?

## **PARTICIPATION**

### **5. SHARING AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY**

**Our Church is all about participation and shared responsibility.**

- Catholics aim to balance authority and governance with teamwork and co-responsibility. How well do we achieve this?
- How could we balance these better?
- How do we encourage lay involvement, participation and leadership?

### **6. OUR DISCERNMENT AND DECISION-MAKING**

**Our aim is to make decisions by discerning what the Holy Spirit is saying through our whole community.**

- How well do you feel we do this?
- What methods or processes do Catholic communities use to include people in discernment and decision-making?
- What do you think we should do to improve our efforts in this?

### **7. BEING FORMED TO JOURNEY TOGETHER**

**All of us need to be open to change and receive ongoing learning and formation to be Synodal.**

- To what extent do you find Catholics are open to change and new learning?
- How do we as a Catholic community form our people to listen, participate and be open to change?
- Have you found Church leaders to be willing to listen, participate and remain open to new ways?

## **MISSION**

### **8. OUR COMMON MISSION**

**Walking together enables us all to accept our mission to share the Good News.**

- Do we as Catholics take this mission seriously?
- How exactly do we as Church members spread the Good News of Jesus Christ?
- What stops us from being active in mission?

### **9. OUR CONVERSATIONS**

**Genuine conversation requires perseverance and patience but leads to understanding.**

- As Catholics, how good are we at conversation – both listening and sharing?
- Good conversation (dialogue) leads to collaboration – how, and how well, do we collaborate as Catholics in our local community?
- In what ways could we dialogue and collaborate better with others in society (e.g. in politics, economics, culture, civil society, and those who are poor or disadvantaged?)