



26.2.2024

E te whānau whānui o ngā hau e whā ki te Rohe Pīhopa o te Papaioea – Tēnā koutou!

Lenten greetings to you all.

We are gearing up for the next phase of the Synod on Synodality. As you may know, three individuals from New Zealand were part of the Oceania Contingent during the Universal Phase of the Synod of Bishops in Rome from October 4th to 29th, 2023. The synthesis of their participation can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/SynthesisReportOct23>

The General Secretariat of the Synod has released a document titled "Towards October 2024," which outlines the upcoming phase of the Synod, accessible here: <http://tinyurl.com/TowardsOctober24>.

As implied by the title, we are now actively planning and preparing for the next stage of the Synod. The New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference (NZCBC) has put together a consultation document for the people of God in Aotearoa, New Zealand, focusing on the synodal question, "How can we be a synodal church in mission?" Please take the time to read this document attentively.

In conversations with Bishop John, it has been emphasised that local churches, Māori Eucharistic Communities, schools, and other groups in our diocese should identify tangible actions to contribute to the Church's mission. This should be guided by the following questions:

- *How can we enhance the shared responsibility in the mission among all members of the People of God?*
- *What structures, processes of discernment, and decision-making methods regarding mission can facilitate and promote shared responsibility?*
- *Which ministries and participatory bodies can be revitalized or introduced to better reflect this shared responsibility?*

Those in the Diocese of Palmerston North are encouraged to engage with the content presented in the Synthesis Report using the 'Conversations in the Spirit' methodology, which can be accessed here: <http://tinyurl.com/SynodParticipation>. Please pay close attention to pages 11-12 of the Participation Booklet for details on this methodology. Additionally, the Adsumus Sancte Spiritus Synod Prayer is available here: <http://tinyurl.com/SynodPrayer>.

This process, known as 'Conversations in the Spirit,' may be familiar to those who have already participated the synodal discernment. Participating at this stage of the discernment is not contingent on having participated previously. The NZCBC has requested that these conversations be led locally wherever feasible. Consequently, the diocese will not facilitate discernment sessions as they have done previously. The deadline for discernment submissions to the NZCBC Secretariat is April 5th, 2024, and submissions should be sent to [secretariat@nzcbc.org.nz](mailto:secretariat@nzcbc.org.nz). Details regarding submission parameters are outlined in the NZCBC Consultation document.

We eagerly anticipate hearing about the enthusiastic engagement of your community in this most significant Church event of our time.

With every good wish and blessing,

Nāku iti nei, nā,

Nick Wilson

Diocese of Palmerston North.

