



Archbishop of Wellington

PO Box 1937, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

Wednesday 8 March

Dear Fathers, Lay Pastoral Leaders and Pastoral Council Chairs

Preparations are well under way for the Synod on the weekend of 15-17 September 2017. In order that the people who will participate in the Synod weekend have time to prepare for their role, I am asking you to begin selecting the participants from your parish. This will need to be completed by 1 May.

The process to be used in the Synod will be based on reflection and sharing rather than discussion, so the participants need to be people who are prayerful and open to the Spirit, as well as reflecting the demographic profile of the parish.

Your participants are not “representatives” of your parish at the Synod. It is not their role to advocate for their parish. Once selected, they become members of the Synod and the good of the whole Archdiocese – and all its parishes - is their focus and responsibility. They bring their prayerfulness and parish experience to this task.

With this letter I am sending you guidelines for selecting your participants, and the numbers of participants each parish needs to select. The numbers are based on Mass counts, with some slight adjustments to ensure the smallest parishes have two participants.

I encourage you to look widely among your people, perhaps even have a simple nomination process, but how your participants are selected is over to the parish to decide.

All good wishes and every blessing

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'John A. Cardinal Dew'.

John A Cardinal Dew

Archbishop of Wellington

Selecting parish participants in the Synod

The demographic diversity of the parish and personal qualities are the main factors to be taken into account when selecting people to attend the Synod weekend.

Demographic diversity

The people chosen should

- reflect the ethnic composition of the parish
- be a balance of men and women
- have a diversity of ages, with special attention being given to ensuring people in the 16-30 year age group are included
- reflect the different socio-economic groups in the parish.

Personal qualities

The people chosen should be:

- prayerful and discerning
- willing to let the Holy Spirit work through them
- willing to dialogue and listen to others
- able to take part in preparation for the synod

Notes

1. There are no specific participants from ethnic chaplaincies, so people of different ethnicities need to be included among the parish participants.
2. Priests, lay pastoral leaders and school principals will all be invited to attend the Synod so should not be included among the parish participants.
3. There may be other people in the parish who will be attending the Synod in another capacity eg Archdiocesan senior staff, hospital or prison chaplains, members of the Synod Committee. They should not be included in the number from your parish.
4. Participants must attend either the South Island Synod Day on Saturday 20 May or the North Island Synod Day on Saturday 27 May.
5. Travel and accommodation costs will be paid for those from the more distant parishes.

Process

Your list of participants is to be sent to Anne Dickinson (contact details below) by 1 May. Please include an email address and phone number for each participant. If they don't have an email address, please include their postal address.

Participants will be asked to register for the Synod weekend in mid-May. At that point more information will be sought, such as postal addresses, accommodation needs, special needs etc.

If you have any queries contact Anne Dickinson a.dickinson@wn.catholic.org.nz
tel 04 496 1793, 027 2429994

Numbers of Synod participants from parishes

PARISH	No. of Synod participants
Cathedral	12
Holy Spirit	11
Holy Trinity	12
Kapiti	11
Marlborough	8
Motueka	2
Nelson/Stoke	9
Our Lady of the Valleys	6
Otaki-Levin	7
Otari	4
Our Lady of Hope	9
Plimmerton	4
Porirua-East	13
Reefton	2
Richmond & Takaka	4
St Francis Ohariu	13
Te Awakairangi	18
Te Ngakau Tapu	2
Upper Hutt	9
Wairarapa	5
Wellington South	13
Westport	2
Wellington Central	5