



Synod '17

Update . . .

Update No1: 13 February 2017

From +John...

Dear Friends

Work is going on in earnest in preparation for the Synod in September. The Synod Committee has been making good progress in dealing with the many decisions and actions needed. With the new year well underway and parishes making plans for the year, we are sending you the first Synod Update so that you can factor the Synod timeline into your plans.

I said in the Decree of Convocation for the Synod: "In convoking a Synod I am mindful of Pope Francis' desire that we advance along the path of "a pastoral and missionary conversion which cannot leave things as they presently are". He explains what he means by "pastoral and missionary conversion" when he writes: "Pastoral ministry in a missionary key seeks to abandon the complacent action which says 'We have always done it this way'". It means being bold and creative in rethinking the goals, structures, style and methods of evangelization and service to the world in our Archdiocese with its diverse communities. In particular, it means taking on board his message to "go out" to the wider world."

The topics for the Synod are primarily drawn from the directions Pope Francis has been putting before us. The topics are: the peripheries of society; our own peripheries; refugees and migrants; care for creation; ecumenism; accompanying the young; marriage and family. In addition there are two topics which reflect particular needs in the Archdiocese: leadership; bicultural and ethnic diversity. These topics will be the subject of the diocese-wide consultation process which begins on 7 May.

Prayer and discernment will be critical factors in the Synod process, and I have asked Fr Alan Roberts to look at how we can provide formation in discernment prior to the Synod. He will be talking about this at the Ministry Formation Day on 28 February.

As we journey together towards the Synod, we pray for one another and for the Archdiocese.

With prayerful best wishes

+John

Key dates in Synod timeline

28 February: Ministry Formation Day

8 March: information about the number of parish representatives to attend the Synod will be sent out, together with the criteria for selecting them. Parishes can begin this process as soon as they receive the information.

16 April: Easter Sunday

1 May: Parish representatives are to be selected by this date, and others who will be attending the Synod will be notified.

7 May: The diocesan-wide consultation process for the Synod begins.

17-18 May: Clergy Assembly which will include section on the Synod

20 May: South Island Synod meeting with Cardinal John - venue to be notified (people attending the Synod will need to attend but all are invited)

27 May: North Island Synod meeting with Cardinal John at Viard College (people attending the Synod will need to attend but all are invited)

23 June: deadline for input on Synod consultation document

28 August: Synod information will be sent to Participants by this date

15-17 September: Synod weekend.

Synod Committee members

Cardinal John Dew
Sharron Cole (Chair)
Bernadette Murfitt
Allan Gierran
Mary-Ann Greaney
Msgr Gerard Burns
Isbella McCafferty
Mika Teofilo
Rangimoeroa Waikari-Panapa
Fr Dennis Nacorda
David Sullivan
Shane Dinnan
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"Go, You are Sent"