

# YOUR IDEAS

Please get involved by discussing these longings within your communities and then, by bringing your ideas on how these longings can be met to our regional consultations.

These will be held at:

**HOLY FAMILY MENAI**

SATURDAY 9AM-12PM

30 AUGUST 2025

**ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL**

TUESDAY 6PM-9PM

14 OCTOBER 2025

**ALL SAINTS LIVERPOOL**

THURSDAY 6PM-9PM

16 OCTOBER 2025

Use the QR code below or email us at

**[synod@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:synod@sydneycatholic.org) to register.**



Opportunities for paper and online submission of ideas will be available after 30 August 2025.

Join us as we pray, discern and act with the Holy Spirit to make our Church in Sydney more vibrant!



**SYDNEY  
SYNOD**  
2026  
CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

[WWW.SYDNEYCATHOLIC.ORG/SYDNEY-SYNOD](http://WWW.SYDNEYCATHOLIC.ORG/SYDNEY-SYNOD)

# SYNOD PRAYER

**Heavenly Father,**

we thank and praise You for Your many blessings. We entrust every aspect of our Archdiocesan Synod to Your loving care. Deepen our faith in the truths You have revealed; strengthen us in hope to desire eternal life as our greatest joy; and, like the disciples walking to Emmaus with Jesus, enkindle divine love in our hearts.

Give us zeal to share the Gospel with all people. Help us to be Christ-centred communities celebrating our liturgies more prayerfully, and growing in holiness and service.

Renew in us the gifts of the Holy Spirit received in Baptism and Confirmation. Grant us wisdom, kindness, and prudence in our deliberations, docility to Your promptings, and courage to witness to Your love, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.

Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop, pray for us.



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# ABOUT THE SYNOD

A diocesan synod is a gathering of clergy, religious and lay people to pray, discuss and respond to the specific needs of the diocese under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The word "synod" or "synodality" refers to a process of "journeying together" undertaken by the People of God.

Synods are important and organic spiritual events in the life of the Church. From the Councils of Jerusalem and Nicea to the most recent Synod on Synodality, the Catholic Church has always had a rich tradition of praying, discerning, and acting together to address pastoral challenges at all levels.

Diocesan synods are the most common form of these assemblies and offer a unique opportunity for the local Church to "listen, dialogue, share, so all the faithful may assume their co-responsibility for the mission".

His Grace, Archbishop Anthony Fisher, has convoked a diocesan Synod for Sydney from **30 April to 3 May 2026** to address the **Holy Spirit-inspired longings** communicated by the People of God in Sydney after many years of consultation.

The Archbishop is seeking **positive, practical** and **faithful ideas** on how we can make our Church in Sydney more vibrant through three, repeated longings for **more prayerful liturgies, more Christ-centred communities** and **to be more mission-oriented**.

## OUR FOCUS

Three longings arose from Sydney Catholics after many years of consultation, and these will be discussed at the Synod:

- 1 **That our liturgies be more prayerful;** occasions of real encounter with God and opportunities for faith development; sacramental programs be improved to initiate into prayerful sacramental celebrations.
- 2 **That our parish and other Church communities be more Christ-centered;** where people are called to ongoing conversion; where people are called to live their baptismal dignity, growing in holiness and service; welcoming communities, especially as regards families and the young.
- 3 **That we be mission-oriented;** we carry Christ's presence beyond Church boundaries; we see ourselves as servants of all with a special place for the marginalized.

We believe these longings express our desire for God. Here on Earth, we suffer the age-old separation from God due to sin. But we are created in God's image. We hunger for God. The Holy Spirit inspires us to reach out for God. These longings, we believe, are expressions of our Holy Spirit-inspired desire to reach out for life in God.

## OUR HOPE

Following Archbishop Fisher's convocation of the Synod on 22 February 2025, the plans for the Synod were presented by the Archbishop and Auxiliary Bishop Danny Meagher, the chair and deputy chair of the Synod Working Party respectively, at a clergy conference on 20 March 2025.

In his address, Archbishop Fisher outlined his hopes for the upcoming Synod:

- 1 **THAT IT BE POSITIVE** – building on the strengths of the Archdiocese while being realistic about the challenges we face.
- 2 **THAT IT BE FAITHFUL** – to Scripture, Tradition and the Magisterium of the Catholic Church.
- 3 **THAT IT BE PRACTICAL** – realistic expectations, energising proposals and tangible outcomes.

Bishop Meagher's Synod proposal emphasised the Holy Spirit-inspired nature of the longings and a hope that the process generates readily implementable ideas that lead to real gain in the lives of Sydney Catholics. Furthermore, the deputy chair hopes for a well-run Synod that allows the Holy Spirit to speak through genuine listening and disciplined dialogue.

POSITIVE

PRACTICAL

FAITHFUL

