



Timeframe Extended

You may be aware that the deadline for the local phase for the Synod 2021-23 was extended by the General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops. The New Zealand Catholic Bishops have indicated that the timeline for the synodal process in Aotearoa will also be extended. In response, we have been working on how this extension will impact on our own diocesan process.

The Secretariat has '*listened*' to our concerns about the short time frame for local discernment and we as a diocese are responding in kind. This is synodality in action and we are delighted, so:

The previous deadline of 30 November 2021 has been extended and submissions can now be made up until 31 March 2022.

At the same time, we want to maintain the momentum that has been gained thus far. Any groups or submissions that may already be organised for the rest of the month are strongly encouraged to continue as planned.

Hopefully, this extra time will allow for input from people who we most need to hear from including those who are baptised but disengaged from our communities for a variety of reasons, our young people and groups from diverse cultural backgrounds.

We are still working to confirm the finer details of how this extension will impact our diocesan process and will communicate more details over the course of the next two weeks.

Thank you for all you have already done to invite, encourage and engage in this synodal process thus far. We look forward to seeing the opportunities that arise from this extension unfold over the coming months and continuing on this journey together.

Teresa Edwards, Isabella McCafferty, Fr Simon Story & Nick Wilson

Diocesan Synodal Team