

Synod – How can we participate?

Some have been asking how to participate in the synod process. The following points may be helpful:



- The word '**synod**' means walking or journeying together. It is an ancient word and comes out of the experience of the early Church.
- Forming 'listening' groups is an important part of the process.
- Anyone can form a group to facilitate a listening and sharing. About 5-6 people forms an ideal size, but this is a suggestion, not a requirement.
- It is suggested that the group follows the **Spiritual Conversation** method outlined on **P.12** in the **Synod Participation Booklet**. Following this process is important, as it encourages active participation, attentive listening, and reflective speaking. **Listening is a priority.**
- The overarching question is: *How is journeying together happening today in our local Church? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take so that we may grow in our journeying together?* This can be broken down into other questions. See **Pages 17-21** in the **Synod Participation Booklet**. These questions are suggestions only. They are listed under themes that suggest how we journey together. These questions may be substituted for other questions.
- The questions are to be thought of as prompts. They are not questions, in the sense that answers are required. They are phrased as questions to help people think and respond.
- The last part of the process for the group is to decide on the response they want to give to the Diocese. Once again refer to **P.12** above.
- P.14 in the Participation Booklet outlines various ways you can respond:
- **ONLINE SURVEY:** Visit [//pndiocese.org.nz/synod](https://pndiocese.org.nz/synod) and follow the link to the online response tool.
E-MAIL: To download the Word document "Synod participation response" click on pndiocese.org.nz/synod
- Email your response **in Word format** to synod@pndiocese.org.nz
- **POSTAL RESPONSE:** Handwrite or type response to the questions and post to it to: SYNOD 2021-23, Diocese of Palmerston North, PO Box 5279, Terrace End, Palmerston North 4441
- **Printed copies of the Synod Booklet available at Parish Office - Phone 878 7774.**
- Something to note. As we participate in this group process, we are in fact, 'journeying together.' Another way to put this is that, as we participate in this group process, we are **being** a synodal Church.