



Archdiocese of Cape Town



Centre for Pastoral Development

10 May 2022

Update on the Synod

Dear Bishops, Fathers, Reverend Deacons and PPC Chairpersons

We trust that the synod process at the parish level is going well and that it continues to be a fruitful exercise for all. We are into the last month of this exercise and want to encourage you to continue to promote the Synod in your parishes. Those who have questions or would like assistance with the synod at the parish level are welcome to contact the Centre for Pastoral Development at cpdcape@gmail.com .

This letter is to give some updates and reminders based on queries being sent in by individual parishes.

The submissions from each parish need to be collated, which means eliminating repetition but at the same time trying to preserve as much as possible the original wording of participants. Please use the template provided for submissions, which can be downloaded from the Archdiocese's website at: <https://adct.org.za/synod-2021-2023/>

We ask that parish submissions on the synod be sent to synodadct@gmail.com by 15 June 2022 (instructions are on the website at the same link). The submissions from all the parishes will then be collated and sent to the Bishops' Conference by mid-August 2022.

Please consider using the submissions from your parish, already on a parish level, as one would in a kind of survey exercise. Some of the information gained will be valuable to the parish pastoral council or other groups in the



parish in terms of addressing pastoral issues raised and acting on suggestions. We do not need to wait for the apostolic exhortation from Pope Francis following the meeting of bishops in October 2023 to already draw fruits from this exercise.

Some parishes have expressed the wish to carry on meeting to discuss issues relating to the synod and have asked for guidelines. These parishes might consider examining the ten themes that were originally sent out concerning the synod and which can be found on the Archdiocese's website and the Vatican Synod website at <https://www.synod.va/en.html>

The closing Mass for the Diocesan Phase of the synod will be held at 10:00 on 25 June 2022 at the Cathedral with Archbishop Stephen. Each parish is warmly invited to send their parish pastoral council chairperson or someone else if he/she is unavailable, and the parish synod coordinator, to represent the parish. Parish priests are also warmly invited. The liturgy will include a symbolic handover of the parish submissions to the Archbishop, by parish representatives. Invitations to this event will be sent out in the next week or so and parishes will be asked to confirm attendance.

Best wishes to you all as you wrap up this process at the parish level.

In Christ,



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