



7th October 2021

Tena koutou katoa,

## Synod on Synodality - Hamilton Diocese

The Catholic Diocese of Hamilton will be participating in the Synod on Synodality starting from 17 October 2021. The word 'synodality' means "walking together". Pope Francis invites us to reflect together, with guidance from the Holy Spirit, on what this mutual journey means for us and for our Church – from the local to the universal. In the coming weeks, we are being called to involve as many people as possible – not only those who are at Mass on Sunday but also those Catholics who may feel disconnected – to participate in this process.

To find out more about what this Synod is all about, as Bishop Steve has already mentioned, I encourage you to read the preparatory document on the synod website [synod.va/en.html](https://synod.va/en.html)

## The Process Locally - Timeline

Please note that the main way to stay up to date with the Synod will be via our website [synod.cdh.nz](https://synod.cdh.nz) This website is live now for you to view, and will be advertised publicly from tomorrow (Friday).

- **Sunday 10th October** - Pope Francis opens the Synod proceedings
- **Sunday 17th October** - Bishop Steve will celebrate Mass to open the Synod process for our Diocese. This will either be at the Cathedral or livestreamed depending on Covid levels. Parishes across the diocese are invited to join in prayer for the Synod that weekend and resources (which are realistic with the current restrictions to gatherings in place) will be sent out next week to support parishes in this. To read what the Vatican has put out, [click here](#). There are four key ways for people to contribute to the Synod:
  1. **Gather and Discern** - Organised by the Diocese, people will gather in groups physically and online to discuss and discern key themes highlighted by the synod. There will be an online form for people to sign up for these, my hope is

that parish secretaries can assist those who do not have access to a computer to sign up.

2. **Respond to a Survey** - provide responses to a survey, either online, via email or by sending in a postal response.
  3. **Contribute to polls** - on social media
  4. **Pray** - using the prayer for the Synod (download pdf on our website), asking the Holy Spirit to pour out grace upon the Church, all the People of God.
- **Sunday 17th October - Sunday 31st October** - Registrations open for people who are interested in 'Gather and Discern'. This will be organised at diocesan level. As we know levels of interest, I will be in contact to arrange dates and times for physical gatherings (where possible) and online gatherings. If you would like a group session run for your parish, and have a specific date in mind, please contact me to arrange this.
  - **Monday 1st November - Tuesday 29th November** -
    - 'Gather and Discern' groups meet in person or online across the diocese.
    - A survey is available for people to respond to online, email, or post.
    - Polls are made available on Social Media.
    - These initiatives may run into December, depending on the level of interest and changes to alert levels.
  - **December** - Responses collated into a 10-page summary.
  - **Late January 2022 (Date TBC)** - Pre-synodal gathering to review the summary document. Details on this gathering will be announced once arranged.
  - **Early February 2022** - The 10-page document is sent to the NZCBC for collation and sent to Rome.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please get in contact.

God Bless,

Brigid Conroy  
Synod Point of Contact  
Pastoral Services Team  
0277365514  
[brigide@cdh.org.nz](mailto:brigide@cdh.org.nz)

# CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF HAMILTON



## Summary of Timeline 2021/22

### SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

[synod.cdh.nz](http://synod.cdh.nz)

10 Oct	Pope Francis opens the global Synod proceedings	<a href="http://synod.va/en.html">synod.va/en.html</a>
17 Oct	The <b>Hamilton Diocese synod process opens</b> , with Bishop Steve celebrating Mass  Parishes to join in prayer for the Synod this weekend	at the Cathedral and/or livestreamed (subject to Covid levels)
17-31 Oct	<b>Registration</b>	Refer website for how to register
1-29 Nov	<b>“Gather and Discern”</b> groups meet <b>Survey</b> online, email, postal <b>Polls</b> via social media <b>Prayer</b>	Physical parish gatherings and online gatherings across the Diocese (subject to Covid levels)
Early Dec	<b>Collate</b> the 10-page Summary Document for the Diocese	Coordinated by Diocesan office
Late Jan 2022	<b>Review</b> the Summary Document	Pre-synodal gathering (subject to Covid levels)
Early Feb 2022	<b>Submit</b> Summary Document to NZCBC	NZCBC to collate and send to Rome

[synod.cdh.nz](http://synod.cdh.nz)