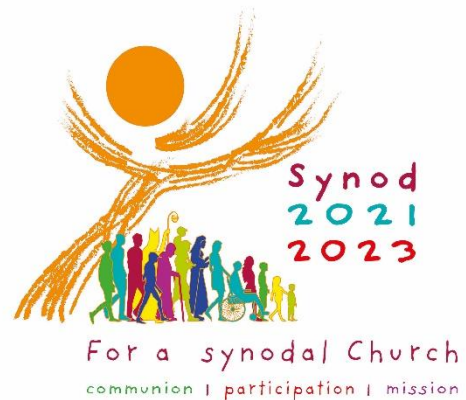


Vox Populi

13 July 2023



Many of you will recall Pope Francis announcing the Synod of Bishops in October 2021 and its topic of “synodality”.

In outlining the theme of this Synod at the time, “Communion, Participation, Mission”, Pope Francis said a synod involved mutual listening in which everyone has something to learn – hence the more common expression for this current synod is “Synod of Synodality”.

Originally the two-year global consultation process was to culminate in the Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome in October 2023, however Pope Francis added a second session for October 2024.

The word synod derives from an ancient Greek term meaning “coming together” or “travelling together”.

Pope Francis is very enthusiastic about the synodal journey because the process is walking and listening together as the People of God on pilgrimage.

This whole process has been divided into stages. There was the initial diocesan listening phase; the continental phase being a time of listening, dialogue and discernment among the Churches of the same geographical region; and the final phase which will begin with the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops at the Vatican in October this year and October 2024.

Late last week Pope Francis announced the 10 non-bishop members chosen from the Oceania region for the upcoming October gathering.

One of those selected is our Chancellor here at Broken Bay, Kelly Paget.

It is a great honour for both Kelly and the Diocese.

Bishop Anthony, who was elected president of the Federation of Catholic Bishops Conference of Oceania earlier this year, and who has also been asked to attend the October gatherings, said he believes our region is one of the most diverse in the world.

“That diversity enriches the Church in Oceania, and it will do so at the Synodal gatherings in Rome.

“We are a young Church in comparison to many other parts of the world, but we are a Church of many and varied talents, which will now feature more prominently on the global stage.”

Pray for Bishop Anthony and Kelly as they embark on this journey.

Please pray also for all pilgrims and leaders who are leaving on their WYD 2023 journey very shortly when they will join thousands of pilgrims from around the world coming together in Lisbon, Portugal and an experience of joy, wonder and encounter.