



Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide

Archbishop of Adelaide

21st October, 2022
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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is with great joy that we welcome you to the 2022 Diocesan Assembly. A little more than a year ago we gathered as a Diocesan family after an open consultation with over 1500 people from across the Archdiocese. Our Assembly last year was firstly a time of listening to one another and to the Holy Spirit. At the end of that Assembly, we made three promises, and we have upheld each of them:

1. **To form a new Diocesan Pastoral Council.** Immediately following the 2021 Assembly, the Interim Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) was formed. Throughout 2022 the members of the DPC have worked to discern strategic priorities based on the recommendations of the 2021 Assembly, developing a mission and vision for the Archdiocese, and setting the groundwork for the formal DPC, which will commence in 2023.
2. **To review and discern the recommendations from the 2021 Diocesan Assembly.** As soon as the 2021 Assembly concluded, many Communities, Parishes, Schools and Diocesan services began to discern the recommendations in light of their own contexts. The recommendations, along with the various other Diocesan consultations that have taken place, informed our Diocesan Report to the 2023 Global Synod. In June we invited Parishes, Schools, Communities and Agencies to share their discernment of the recommendations, which involved almost 1800 people so far.
3. **To hold a Diocesan Assembly in 2022.** We knew then that becoming a church *together on the way* would take time and practice. We need to develop our muscles for synodality. To do this we must continue to gather, to listen, discern, and move in mission. So here we are!

The 2022 Diocesan Assembly is an opportunity for a wayside stop. To take stock of where we have been, to discern our current realities in the light of the Gospel, and to plan for action as we get back on the road.

The next 24 hours or so will have a particular focus on mission. Yes, we will pray and listen, for we must do so in order to prepare ourselves to discern the ways in which we as the community of the People of God might participate, and draw others in participation, in the mission of God.

So as we enter this Diocesan Assembly, let us be open to the Holy Spirit, that we may be respond to the promptings and movement of the Spirit; that we would have the courage to step out in faith; and that we might truly be a Church *Together on the Way*.

In Domino,

+Patrick O'Regan
Archbishop of Adelaide

Sarah Moffatt
Director, Pastoral Life and Mission

Peter Bierer
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