

Pastoral Ministry CONNECT

VOL. 6 | SPRING 2022

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we minister and all who have contributed to our story.



Participants at the Plenary Council Assembly. Photo by Fiona Basile

There is a time ...

*There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity
under the heavens:*

*a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.*

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

The Fifth Plenary Council of Australia held the second and final assembly in July 2022. Motions were presented and voted upon, some with challenge and with the Spirit guiding the way.

"After the November 2022 meeting of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, the decrees will be sent to the Apostolic See. In accordance with canon 446 of the Code of Canon Law, decrees are not to be promulgated until they have been reviewed by the Apostolic See. They will be promulgated in the Australasian Catholic Record and the website of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference in accordance with its usual practice. The decrees will oblige six months after promulgation."

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/motions-and-voting/>

We pray for those who will take these next steps as we always continue to listen to the Spirit.



OCEANIA PASTORAL MINISTRY WEBINAR

All About Youth: Encounter, Engagement and Enablement with Jen Healey (Broken Bay Diocese) and Sebastian Dahau (De La Salle)

- What are the successful strategies for initial connect and encounter?
- What is beneficial for ongoing engagement in school, parish and beyond?
- How are young people being enabled and empowered in church leadership?

Open to everyone
who seeks
continual renewal
in the Spirit!

Tuesday, 20th September 2022, 11am – 12.30pm (AEST)
\$20 Non-Members | Members Free

Register at <https://www.trybooking.com/CCGUH>

You will receive a confirmation email upon registration and further information closer to the event.



Mission Planners
Network of Oceania



Jen Healey has been serving in youth ministry for the past 5 years at a local and diocesan level. Prior to youth ministry, Jen spent time volunteering in schools in Fiji and teaching students with special needs.

Jen has a deep passion for leading young people to Christ and allowing them to be transformed by His love, particularly working with young women. She is also passionate about holistic and healthy living and is 6 weeks away from completing a Bachelor Education (Healthy and Physical Education).



Sebastian Dahau is an enthusiastic individual who is passionate about empowering young people to live their best lives. He had the privilege of representing the youth of Australia as an auditor at the 2018 Synod on Young People, Faith, and Vocational Discernment. He works as a Young Lasallians Coordinator for the Lasallian Mission Council and has been a member of the Australian Catholic Youth Council.

The Australian Census '21 reflects the "rise of the nones", with almost 40% of people ticking "no religion". At the same time, a recent national survey reveals a growing interest in young people in spirituality, with three in ten 18 to 34 year olds indicating they may have tried to connect with a church in the last five years. In this webinar we explore the challenge and opportunity of ministry with young people:

- What are the successful strategies for initial connect and encounter?
- What is beneficial for ongoing engagement in school, parish and beyond?
- How are young people being enabled and empowered in church leadership?

Register at
<https://www.trybooking.com/CCGUH>

PASTORAL MINISTRY NETWORK ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Thursday 13th October 2022,
12pm AEDT**

Guest speaker:

Bishop Shane Mackinlay
Diocese of Sandhurst

***How the Synodal Process continues to evolve
within the Australian Church post Plenary***

Our Pastoral Ministry Network Annual General Meeting will follow
(postponed from earlier advertised date of 17 August)

Hear more about the Pastoral Ministry Network, our vision and plans. Consider being part of the PMN management committee (3 year term) or one of the working committees (varied terms) in taking our vision and plans forward. We are seeking to expand membership outside of NSW and Australia. Whilst our general membership comes from around Australia, New Zealand and further afield, most of our current committee members live and work in NSW.

The agenda and reports for the AGM along with nomination forms for the management committee will be emailed to members in the coming weeks. mark the date in your diary to be part of bringing to life a vision of connecting and supporting those in pastoral ministry in Oceania.

Register your attendance at <https://tinyurl.com/PMNAGM2022>

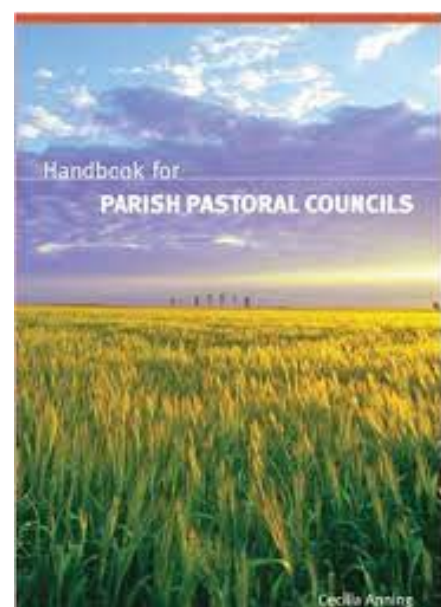


Bishop Shane Mackinlay, Diocese of Sandhurst will offer a keynote at the Pastoral Ministry Network AGM on Thursday 13th October at 12pm AEDT.

Vale Sr Cecilia Anning

Many of you may have used the Handbook for Parish Pastoral Councils over the years. It was and continues to be an invaluable resource for PPC's. We remember author, Sr Cecilia Anning rsj, who passed away on the 29th July 2022, aged 79 years and give thanks to her invaluable contribution to our Church.

Read about Sr Cecelia at https://catholicleader.com.au/people/mary-mackillop-is-the-constant-guide-for-sr-cecilias-life-path_73704/.



Let's have a yarn ...



It is always great to connect, even if it is via Zoom! Let's Have a Yarn provides the opportunity to meet with others in the Pastoral Ministry Space, who are all doing their bit to live God's mission.

The next Let's Have a Yarn is **Wednesday 28th September 2022, 7.30 - 8.30pm AEST**. Join in for prayer, networking and sharing.

Register for Let's Have a Yarn
28th September, 7.30pm AEST at
<https://tinyurl.com/LHAY280922>

Alive in the Spirit

Being The Community Christ
Calls Us To Be

Planning is underway for Alive in the Spirit 2023. Be part of this exciting conference offering an engaging experience for those in Pastoral Ministry.

To be part of the coordinating team, or to offer particular skills in marketing, networking or planning to name a few, email info@pastoralministrynetwork.org to express your interest.

MEET THE PMN COMMITTEE

Each month we will introduce a member of the Committee and share some of their story.

LISA BRIGHT



Lisa, please share what areas of Pastoral Ministry you are engaged in?

I work in a Life and Faith team at a parish which focuses on Adult Faith Formation and formation for the Sacraments. I also work with faith communities on a diocesan and parish level in parish renewal, community engagement and pastoral planning.

Why are you passionate about Pastoral Ministry?

I am passionate for the People of God to embrace their call to live as disciples - living and breathing their faith in their everyday life. I love to hear and share stories, and accompany people in this journey of connecting life and faith so that we all can 'live life to the full.'

What's your idea of a perfect day?

A perfect day would be having no appointments or things scheduled in, reading a book in the sun, or watching a movie with the kids - just hanging about the house with nothing that 'has' to be done!

Synodality

It is the word that is used so often in our Church at the moment.
What does it mean for our faith communities?

by Richard McMahon

Synodality is all the buzz, with the Plenary Council supporting a range of motions around the concept. Indeed, a quick search of the supported motions returns 32 occurrences of either "synodal" or "synodality".

However, while the adjective "synodal" is employed to describe the type of approach our church should take to our mission, there remains a lack of clarity to the particular elements that constitute a synodal community.

Fr Richard Lennan, in his latest work, *Tilling the Church*, describes a synodal community as one which dialogues, discerns and decides together with the Holy Spirit.

In dialogue, we do so as a whole community, earnestly respecting

and seeking out the diversity of voices, seeking an awareness of how the Spirit is speaking to us in this time and place, particularly being attentive to the voices of the most marginalised. Conversely, when a privileged group of leadership says it has listened to the broader community, this will not always be synodal, if the listening process is too constricted or not offered in a safe, truly inclusive and respectful way.

In discernment, the whole community weighs up the signs of the times as elicited through the period of dialogue, and brings this into creative tension with the deposit of faith - our existing tradition, doctrines and scriptural foundations, asking how we are being called to respond to keep in step with the Spirit? Conversely, if we either ignore the significance of our deposit of faith, or ignore the significance of the signs of the times, we are not being synodal.

Finally, synodality calls for decisions to be made by the community of faith. To be truly synodal, the voice of the faithful is expressed, and the leadership affirms the decisions made. I would suggest this is the most poorly understood and practised element of synodality.



Six strong themes and women, biculturalism and abuse feature in NZ national Synod synthesis

16 Aug 2022

<https://www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases>

Six strong themes have emerged from the diocesan and national Synod processes undertaken in the Catholic Church of Aotearoa New Zealand – Inclusion, Gathering, Leadership, Education and Formation, Mission, and Synodality and Change.

The role of women, biculturalism, and abuse in the Church cut across those six themes.

The NZ Catholic Bishops Conference has compiled a National Synod syntheses document from the diocesan phase of the Synod 2023 process and the national hui held in Wellington in June to synthesise the diocesan documents.

The national document has been sent to Rome as part of the Pope's synodal path to the Church's future, which will culminate in the Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome in October next year.

Similar national documents have been compiled by bishops' conferences around the world. They will be used by the Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops to draft a working document called the *Instrumentum Laboris* in preparation for the October 2023 synod. Bishops' conferences will also take part in "continental" gatherings, in New Zealand's case a gathering of Oceania conferences which will include Australia and Pacific island states.

In the introduction to the national synthesis just completed, the bishops say many of the people who took part in the New Zealand synodal process at parish, diocesan and national level expressed great appreciation of the opportunity to reflect on the journey together.

"They spoke positively and with love about the place the Church has in their lives. They want the Church to be a life-giving and active presence in the world, an outward-looking servant Church; a welcoming, inclusive and transformative presence for individuals and communities. They see the synodal process itself being as important as the outcome, because in listening to one another the Holy Spirit is present," the introduction says.

"For some people, especially those participating as individuals rather than in groups, the process provided an opportunity to express anger, cynicism, hurt and rejection of the Church due to past experiences. The Church was named as a place of alienation, and irrelevant, especially in its teaching on human sexuality. The responses from those who feel ignored, excluded or who have been deeply hurt made painful reading, but their desire to be part of a welcoming Catholic community was clear. Their responses are valued and we are learning from them."

Pope Francis launched the two-year synod process – the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in the Catholic Church -- in 2021 to hear what ordinary Catholics from around the world think should be the future direction of the Church.

Points from the six main Aotearoa New Zealand themes:

- **Inclusion:** We want the Church to be a non-judgmental and safe place of welcome and belonging. Church teaching which excludes some people from the Eucharist is causing pain and hurt. Awareness of those who feel marginalised or excluded can lead to new attitudes and action. Action on inclusion must be part of our synodal journey.

- **Gathering:** There is great love for the Mass, but also concerns about inclusion and lay participation. A new English translation of the Roman Missal is needed. Homilies must help people to encounter Jesus in the reality of their lives. If lay people are allowed to give homilies, they must have good formation. Small groups for prayer, formation, scripture study, and mission build community are needed.

- **Leadership:** Collaborative ministry should become the norm, with greater sacramental involvement for lay people. Co-responsible leadership with barriers to lay participation in decision-making removed. Women participate equally in decision-making, and have greater participation in liturgical roles.

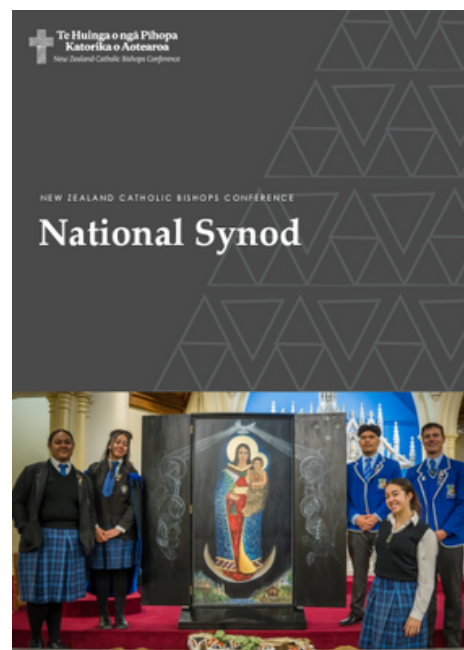
- **Mission:** Formation is needed for mission, and help with engaging in mission collectively. Ecumenical activity and interfaith dialogue need to be embraced as part of mission. Shame related to abuse in the Church makes evangelisation difficult. Prophetic leadership is needed in the community on social justice, ecological and bicultural issues. The only public voice of the Church for many is on euthanasia and human sexuality.

- **Education and Formation:** Further formation is needed for both lay people and clergy in discernment and synodality. There is a need for catechesis in Church teaching. Education and formation in safeguarding is essential for both lay people and clergy. Seminarians' formation should involve more community engagement, and include biculturalism and cultural sensitivity. Both clergy and laity need formation in collaborative ministry and co-responsible leadership.

- **Synodality and Change:** The Synod process is exciting and transformative. We want to bring back those who are missing. Synodality and discernment can help us change while holding on to what is central to our faith. We want to learn to journey together in a synodal way.

In a letter accompanying the national synthesis to Rome, Cardinal John Dew, President of the NZCBC, says: "Many people commented positively on this process and appreciated the opportunity to discern together.

"As one Whakataukākī (Māori proverb) says: Ka totoro atu tōku ringa ki ngā tōpito e whā o te ao, e kore e taea te whakahoki mai. When my hands stretch out to the four corners of the world they will not return fruitless.— Te Kooti Rikirangi."



[*Click here to view the report*](#)



If you are in an organisation or know of an organisation who would like to advertise in our monthly Pastoral Ministry Connect newsletter, please contact Lisa at info@pastoralministrynetwork.org for pricing and terms. Your support enables the Pastoral Ministry Network to carry out its mission within the Church.

Start a conversation via the PMN Online Forum

The Pastoral Ministry Network is your network. The online forum has been created as a space where members can share ideas and questions, to enrich our network.

Contribute to the topics already started or begin your own discussion thread on an area of pastoral life not discussed elsewhere.

Be sure to introduce yourself in the "introduce yourself" thread, and read the forum guidelines to ensure a safe and welcoming experience for all.

As well as the online forum, visit the [insights](#) page where you will find a plethora of video and book resources to use within your communities or for your own journey.

www.pastoralministrynetwork.org

Your contribution to Pastoral Ministry Connect is very welcome!

To submit or suggest an article for Pastoral Ministry Connect or to share a story of your community, please contact us via the details below. We're always looking for good news stories to share from those working in pastoral ministry.

The collective wisdom of people working in the area is what makes the Pastoral Ministry Network a great place to network and support each other.

This newsletter is sent regularly to all PMN members. Please add info@pastoralministrynetwork.org to your address book or add us to your safe senders list. Contents of this electronic newsletter are copyright © 2022 Pastoral Ministry Network.

PMN Executive

Co-chair: Fr Michael Alcock

Co-chair: Richard McMahon

Secretary: Carmel Fenton

Treasurer: Carole Gan

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