

We thank you for your time spent taking this survey.
Your response has been recorded.

Below is a summary of your responses

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FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH: COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION AND MISSION



Feedback for the Continental Stage

The Working Document for the Continental Stage (DCS) gathers and restores to the local Churches what the People of God from around the world said in the first year of the Synod. It is meant to guide us and enable us to deepen our discernment, keeping in mind the basic question that animates the entire process:

“How does this ‘journeying together,’ ... allow the Church to proclaim the Gospel in accordance with the mission entrusted to Her; and what steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow as a synodal Church?” (PD, no.2).

You are invited to contribute your reflections on the Working Document for the Continental Stage. You can find the Document here: [WORKING DOCUMENT](#)

Your reflection will be done in groups using the Reflection Guide, which can be downloaded here: [REFLECTION GUIDE](#)

If you have already summarised your group's reflection, this short submission process should only take 5-10 minutes to complete.

This portal accepts short and succinct submissions only. *Because of the nature of this synodal process and the very tight timeline, we regret that we are not able to accept additional information.*

We are not inviting individual reflections at this time. If you would like to join a reflection group, please contact the National Centre for Pastoral Research by 30 November 2022: ncpr@catholic.org.au

This submission portal will remain open until **Friday 9 December 2022**.

Before you commence the submission process, please complete the following task so we know you're a real person . . .

Firstly, what is the name of your group?

AMPJP group 1

Please describe briefly the members of your group, such as the type of group (e.g., parish/diocese), age range, special characteristics, ethnic makeup, interest area, etc.

Here are some examples:

- *We are a group of 10 Catholics (religious, clergy and laity) of all ages and ethnicities passionate about social justice issues.*
- *Our group is a family of five who are actively involved in our local parish.*
- *We are a group of people with disabilities aged 25–65 from Canberra.*

four Catholic (3 lay and 1 Religious, 3 involved in MPJPs and 1 from a parish)

Your group was invited to reflect on three areas:

1. EXPERIENCES OF CHURCH

- After having read and prayed with the DCS, what resonates most strongly with the lived experiences and realities of the Church in your continent?
- Which experiences are new, or illuminating to you?

2. CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS

- After having read and prayed with the DCS, what significant tensions or differences emerge as particularly important in your continent's perspective?
- Consequently, what are the questions or issues that should be addressed and considered in the next steps of the process?

3. PRIORITIES AND CALLS TO ACTION

- Looking at what emerges from the previous two questions:
 - What are the priorities, recurring themes and calls to action that can be shared with other local Churches around the world?
 - What should be discussed during the First Session of the Synodal Assembly in October 2023?

On the next page you will be asked to submit your group's response to each of the above three areas.

1. EXPERIENCES OF CHURCH

In **ONE SHORT** paragraph (less than 200 words), please provide a summary of your group's reflection related to **EXPERIENCES OF CHURCH**.

• laity want to be involved but some are passive and some have been hurt before • People are yearning for improvements to keep the Church alive • More and more people are seeing Baptism as our common foundation for participation in the Church • People recognise synodality is an expression of the Church's true nature • The DCS is seen as an accurate reflection of our experience of Church • The DCS gives us hope that the Synod of Bishops is hearing the diversity of voices in the Church • Some parishes and diocese have already started to adopt more synodal processes

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2. CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS

In **ONE SHORT** paragraph (less than 200 words), please provide a summary of your group's reflection related to **CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS**.

• the scandal of sexual abuse within the Church and the lack of opportunities for women in the Church • becoming a Church of the Gospels rather than a Church of rules • Image of Church as tent "an expansive, but not homogeneous dwelling, capable of sheltering all, but open, letting in and out" pg17 – has a view of is an ecclesiology, mission and ministry that is not shared by all – some see Church as immovable place of solid walls with small windows so as not to be distracted or contaminated by the outside and a small door so that the guardians can ensure that only the right people gain entry. • Rebuilding Church after COVID • Radical inclusion – a place where non-Mass attenders feel at home • Responding to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor • pastoral councils are essential • clericalism • Church needs to hold in tension the seemingly conflicting visions, needs and views of all members • deprivation of the sacraments due to requirement that only celibate males are ordained

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3. PRIORITIES AND CALLS TO ACTION

In **ONE SHORT** paragraph (less than 200 words), please provide a summary of your group's reflection related to **PRIORITIES AND CALLS TO ACTION**.

• Formation in synodality • Communication • inviting people to participate • hearing the voice of young people and empowering them to act on their priorities • Welcome and inclusion of First Nation peoples into all aspects of Church and provide culturally appropriate liturgies. • Liturgy must be revised to reflect contemporary theology and cosmology • Proving the option of marriage to diocesan priests • Engage priests who have left ministry to marry • Be open to new pastoral activities e.g., basic ecclesial communities • Be open to new pastoral leadership

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Can you please include **5 to 7 key points** that capture the important parts of your group's overall submission? (Maximum of 250 words)

• The DCS is seen as an accurate reflection of our experience of Church • People recognize synodality as the road or pathway of an inclusive and welcoming Church • Formation in synodality • Participation of more of the baptized and

with greater responsibility • Responding to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor • Be open to new pastoral activities • Be open to new pastoral leadership

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Lastly, please include your details in case we need to contact you about your submission. *(These details will not be provided to anyone.)*

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Thank you for participating in the Continental Stage for the Synod of Bishops.

Please submit your response by clicking the ' -> ' button below. You will then have the option of downloading a copy of your response.

Once submitted you will be unable to go back.

*For technical assistance in completing this submission,
please contact the ACBC National Centre for Pastoral Research via email at stephen.reid@catholic.org.au*

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