

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](mailto: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 consultation 24 Nov 2022

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.*

4 MPJP Canonical Stewards and two other Catholics

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**.

• The DCS has heard and reflected well the experience, hopes and struggles of the Church • Some parts of the Church, including some Bishops and parishes are growing in synodality (e.g., bringing people together, hearing diverse voices, being open to take new approaches, a diversity of people involved in leadership and ministry) • Some parishes are not synodal (e.g., passive laity, overbearing priests, inward looking) • Synodality is a vision of Church that is inspiring and applicable across the universal Church • Ministerial PJPs reflect synodality – collective decision-making with inclusive consultation and discernment • Church failures to address abuse by clergy continues to hinder participation, communion and mission

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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**.

• Within the Church we have the people, skills and wisdom needed to advance God's mission • Church is more than Sunday Mass • Some Australian-born and non-Australian born clergy behave in ways inconsistent with synodality • Some clergy and laity hold and promote an 'intellectually childish' theology that diminishes the richness of the Gospel message. • Synodality can be experienced as an existential threat to clergy who assumed that ordination gave them exclusive right to certain roles and to determine how they fulfilled those roles. • The process of developing and reflecting upon the DCS was very inclusive – how do we extend this to other activities within Church • Liturgy should be synodal and life-giving but the current English translation of the Roman liturgy, developed in a profoundly unsynodal manner, reflects an archaic theology and language, and a clerically dominated church. For many, it does not enrich their faith or resonate with their experience of life and of God.

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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**.

• Fundamental change is required for synodality to replace the predominant culture of clericalism • Engaging all people, including young people who are the church of the future • Reform the priesthood – formation, theology, practice • Clergy and laity need formation together for synodality to flourish • Subsidiarity is essential for participation, communion and mission • Synodality could develop elsewhere in the Church if MPJP processes and structures were adopted more widely • All parts of the Church should engage in dialogue and collaboration with non-Catholics • Assembly of the Synod of Bishops needs to better reflect the composition of the Church – especially by including women

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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)

• Our common baptism is the basis for participation in the Church • Synodality is an ongoing process – we need to constantly review and improve our efforts • Formation for laity and clergy on synodality • Participation in Church decision-making needs to meaningfully include laity, especially women • All parts of the Church need to be less inward and institutional focused and more outward and Gospel focused

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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.)*

Name

Lawrie Hallinan

Email address

lawrie@ampjp.org.au

Phone

0419447217

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](mailto:stephen.reid@catholic.org.au)*

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