



Perth Archdiocesan Assembly
2023 -2024
Journeying Together Led by the Spirit

2024 ARCHDIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

FINAL REPORT

Background

The Fifth Plenary Council of the Catholic Church in Australia concluded in June 2022. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) formally approved the acts and decrees in November 2022 prior to them being forwarded to Rome for consideration.

Decree 7 makes reference to diocesan pastoral councils (DPC) and diocesan synods.

Prior to that, one of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse was that the Catholic Church in Australia conduct a review of diocesan and parish governance and management. The ACBC and Catholic Religious Australia (CRA) accepted that recommendation and the Implementation Advisory Group was tasked with conducting and presenting that review.

The final version of the report, entitled *The Light from the Southern Cross: Promoting Co-Responsible Governance in the Catholic Church in Australia*, was presented to the Bishops Conference and Catholic Religious Australia in mid-August 2020.

Recommendations 50 – 55 refer to diocesan pastoral governance. Recommendations 56 and 57 make reference to diocesan synods.

In the Code of Canon Law, Decrees 511 – 514 provide guidance on pastoral councils.

Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB, in his capacity as Archbishop of Perth, had been considering the re-establishment of a DPC for some time. He asked the Plenary Council Members from the Archdiocese of Perth to devote a listening and discernment session in their preparation for the Plenary Council to consideration of this matter.

In his Pastoral Letter of 11 April 2023, Archbishop Costelloe announced that the Archdiocese of Perth would hold a Diocesan Assembly on 26 September 2023. The focus of the Assembly would be the re-establishment of a Diocesan Pastoral Council. The Archdiocese previously established a DPC in 1973. It appears that this ceased to operate in 1994.

Diocesan Assembly Reference Group

Archbishop Costelloe appointed a Diocesan Assembly Reference Group under the chairmanship of the Vicar General, Very Reverend Fr Vincent Glynn.

Membership

The membership of the group was as follows:

Very Reverend Fr Vincent Glynn (Chair)
Mr Tony Giglia (Executive Officer)
Dr Marco Ceccarelli
Sr M Luka Juenemann ISSM
Ms Rommie Masarei
Ms Catherine Nguyen
Ms Tara Peters
Rev Fr Nelson Po
Dr Carmel Stuart

Ms Gemma Thomson
Fr Nino Vinciguerra
Mr Jamie O'Brien
Ms Vanessa Strohmeier
Mrs Tracy Stevens (Minutes Secretary)

NB Sr Kerry Willison RSM attended meetings during 2023 in her capacity as the Director of the Centre for Liturgy.

Decision to postpone date of Diocesan Assembly

It was initially envisaged that the Assembly would be held on 23 September 2023. Once initial planning commenced, it was decided that more time should be allowed to provide formation in listening and discernment for potential Assembly Delegates.

The decision was subsequently made to hold the Diocesan Assembly on Saturday, 13 July 2024, at Newman College.

Archbishop Costelloe had made a strong commitment for the new DPC to have synodality, prayer and listening and discernment as essential features of its operation. These aspects became central to the preparation of delegates for the formation day as well as the Diocesan Assembly.

Diocesan Assembly Logo

The Manager, Communications, Jamie O'Brien, was tasked with the development of a suitable logo for the Diocesan Assembly.

The final product was completed in June 2023.



The Perth Archdiocesan Assembly logo uses the colours found on the crest of the Archdiocese of Perth: gold, red, and blue. The following describes the graphical elements and their symbolism:

- The **golden sun represents Western Australia** and a new dawn - an important and promising turning point for the Archdiocese of Perth.

- The second circle in **white represents the Eucharist**, which is at the heart of our Catholic faith, focusing our attention on the goal of Christ's return.
- The image of the **Cross reminds us of the sacrifice** of Christ and His redeeming love for all.
- The image of the **flames representing the Holy Spirit** is red in colour to convey confidence. The fluidity found in the imagery shows movement and forwardness.

Diocesan Assembly – Web Page

The Manager, Communications, was tasked with developing a specific page for the Diocesan Assembly. This was completed in September 2023 and updated in July 2024.

A dedicated link was provided at https://www.perthcatholic.org.au/Our_Archdiocese-Archdiocesan_Assembly_202324.htm. Content for the page included

- Welcome from Very Rev Fr Vincent Glynn
- Introduction by Archbishop Costelloe: Pastoral Letter of 11 April 2023
- Archdiocesan Assembly Prayer (and artwork)
- Archdiocesan Assembly Logo and explanation
- Formation Day Speeches (including AUSLAN) of Archbishop Costelloe, Fr Vincent and Dr Carmel Suart
- Assembly Day Speeches
 - Archbishop Costelloe Closing Speech
 - Auxiliary Bishop Don Sproxtton Introduction Speech
 - Fr Vincent Glynn Welcome Speech
- Diocesan Assembly Launch Homily: Very Rev Fr Vincent Glynn
- Interview with Fr Eamonn Conway & Tara Peters
- Synodality; Featuring Fr Ormond Rush

The screenshot shows the website for the Perth Catholic Archdiocese. The main content area is titled "Archdiocesan Assembly". Below the title, there are three vertical video thumbnails showing Very Rev Fr Vincent Glynn. The "WELCOME" section contains the following text:

WELCOME

The 2023-2024 Perth Archdiocesan Assembly is the first of its kind for our Archdiocese.

Announced by Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB in April 2023, it was launched on Trinity Sunday 4 June 2023 at St Mary's Cathedral.

The Assembly will be held on 13 July 2024 with a day of formation being held on the 23 September 2023 in preparation for the Assembly.

It will focus primarily on the establishment of a Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) and how a DPC can reflect the process of synodality asked for by Pope Francis. This will enable us to address one of the final decrees of the Fifth Plenary Council of the Catholic Church in Australia.

Delegates were called from across the Archdiocese including priests, deacons, parishioners, representatives from Catholic Religious Western Australia and nominees from the many organisations and agencies involved in the work of the Church in Perth.

I wish to express my gratitude to the many parishes, zones of priests, agencies and other groups in the archdiocese who have engaged in the selection of delegates. Your engagement is greatly appreciated by the Archbishop and the Diocesan Assembly Reference Group.

I ask that within your agency you pray for all attending the Assembly in 2024.

A Perth Archdiocesan Assembly Prayer has been written. It is an adaptation of the Archdiocesan Prayer written by Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB a number of years ago. This prayer has been placed on prayer cards and printed copies have been disseminated across the Archdiocese.

Once again, thank you to all who have entered into this time within our archdiocese of *Journeying Together Led by the Spirit*.

In Christ Jesus

Very Rev Fr Vincent Glynn

Very Rev Fr Vincent Glynn EV
Episcopal Vicar for Education and Faith Formation

INTRODUCTION



Archbishop Costelloe Pastoral Letter

11 April 2023

"While we are still awaiting from the Holy See the formal acceptance of the decrees of the Plenary Council, we can already begin to take steps to prepare ourselves for the important task of implementing the outcomes of the Plenary Council in our Archdiocese.

In view of this I am, with this letter, formally announcing that I am convening a Diocesan Assembly in order to consider the re-establishment of a Diocesan Pastoral Council.

Diocesan Pastoral Councils, though not mandated by the law of the Church, were very highly recommended by the Second Vatican Council. Under the leadership of Archbishops Goody and Foley, Perth did have a Diocesan Pastoral Council for some years, but it was discontinued in the late nineties. Our recent Plenary Council has called for the establishment or re-establishment of such Councils in every diocese, and I believe it is appropriate for us to decide whether or not the time is now right to make such a move. It is also important to clarify why such a body might be necessary and how it should operate. The Church's law and traditions do give some indications and establish some parameters. Within these, however, we have ample scope for shaping such a body according to our local needs. At the same time, in response to the call of Pope Francis for a more synodal Church, we might ask ourselves what a Diocesan Pastoral Council might look like if it is a truly synodal body. These are the questions I will ask the Diocesan Assembly to consider.

Some practical decisions have already been made. The Assembly will take place on Saturday 23 September and will be held at Newman College in Churchlands. Mr Tony Giglis, who co-ordinated our engagement with both the Plenary Council and with the consultations for the forthcoming Synod, has been appointed as the Co-Ordinator of the Assembly. Tony will soon be communicating the process for selecting the delegates to the Assembly to parishes and other Church communities and agencies. The delegates will come from all areas of the life of the Archdiocese. Tony will also be responsible for preparing resources for the formation of delegates and for devising the methodology to be used during the Assembly.

The convening of this Diocesan Assembly is a relatively modest initiative, but it is designed to set a pattern for ongoing consultation and discernment which I hope will become a permanent feature of the life of our Archdiocese in the future. We must continue together along the path of becoming "a synodal Church (which) is a listening Church, aware that listening is more than hearing. It is a reciprocal listening in which everyone has something to learn".

Yours Sincerely in Christ,

Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SOB
Archbishop of Perth

[Download the Pastoral Letter](#)

Diocesan Prayer

The Very Reverend Fr Vincent Glynn amended the Archdiocesan Prayer and after consultation, it was adopted as the Diocesan Assembly Prayer.

Prayer for the Diocesan Assembly

Gracious God,

You have blessed our Archdiocese with many gifts, and you call us to share those gifts with others.

We thank you for this call and commit ourselves anew to responding with courage and generosity.

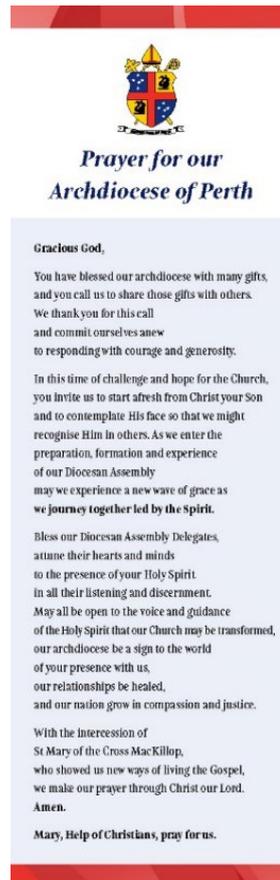
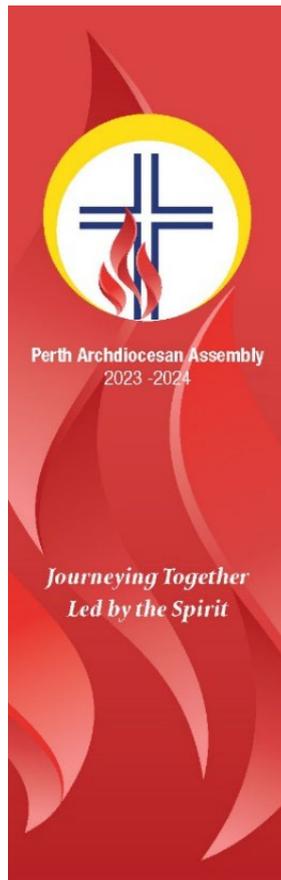
In this time of challenge and hope for the Church, you invite us to start afresh from Christ your Son and to contemplate His face so that we might recognise Him in others. As we enter the preparation, formation and experience of our Diocesan Assembly may we experience a new wave of grace as we journey together led by the Spirit.

Bless our Diocesan Assembly Delegates, attune their hearts and minds to the presence of your Holy Spirit in all their listening and discernment.

May all be open to the voice and guidance of the Holy Spirit that our Church may be transformed, our Archdiocese be a sign to the world of your presence with us, our relationships be healed, and our nation grow in compassion and justice.

With the intercession of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, who showed us new ways of living the Gospel, we make our prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us.



Nomination of Delegates

Fr Vincent Glynn wrote to parish priests in June 2023 asking them to nominate one person from their parish to act as a delegate at the Diocesan Assembly. He also wrote to the Directors of selected Offices and Agencies, asking them to nominate a staff member or committee of management member to act as a Delegate.

Potential Delegates were asked to commit to a process of formation which would be offered following the formation day in the lead up to the Diocesan Assembly.

This formation would focus primarily on listening and discernment and the spiritual conversations methodology which would underpin the Assembly.



Formation Day 26 September 2023

The decision to allow more time for formation in listening and discernment for Assembly delegates resulted in the transformation of the originally proposed date for the Diocesan Assembly, 23 September 2023, into a formation day of discernment, prayer, and educational and catechetical talks. This day was followed by 10 months of ongoing formation for delegates that would see them become accustomed to the process of listening and discernment to be used in the 2024 Diocesan Assembly.

The Formation Day was held at Newman College, Churchlands, on Saturday 23 September 2023 and was attended by 102 delegates made up of lay people, priests and clergy, religious sisters and brothers, parishioners, Archdiocesan Office and Agency representatives and nominees from the many organisations involved in the work of the Church.

The key characteristics that the delegates needed to demonstrate were:

- a demonstrated commitment to the teachings and faith expressed through the Catholic Church;
- an intentional living of the gospel in their life, exhibited through both prayer and deeds;
- practical experience within the pastoral life of their local parish community; and
- an openness to be formed and a willingness to listen to others and to discern the Holy Spirit.



The day was hosted by Chief Mission Integration Officer at St John of God Health Care, Tara Peters, and was interspersed with moments of prayer and reflection (aided by visual aids) coordinated by the then Director of the Centre for Liturgy, Sr Kerry Willison RSM.

In the first presentation of the day, Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB drew upon his experience and role as President of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia by speaking on two topics: *What is a Diocesan Assembly?* and *The Recommendations of a Diocesan Pastoral Council*. Archbishop Costelloe focused on the Seventh Decree of the Plenary Council, which calls for each diocese to be governed in a synodal manner through the creation of a Diocesan Pastoral Council.¹ He also expressed his desire for the Archdiocese of Perth to follow the direction of Pope Francis to become more synodal in its actions, pastoral strategies and governance models.

Archbishop Costelloe's address was followed by a presentation by Office of Christian Initiation Director and Office of Parish Renewal Support Officer, Dr Carmel Suart, who discussed the purpose of a Diocesan Pastoral Council according to Canon Law. Dr Suart detailed the DPC's canonical basis and its function as an advisory body to the bishop of a diocese, and that a DPC membership is comprised of clergy, religious and the baptised faithful.



The final address for the morning was given by the Chair of the Reference Group for the organisation of the Diocesan Assembly, Fr Vincent Glynn. Fr Glynn spoke on the importance of listening and introduced the Ignatian method of listening and discernment that would be at the heart of the afternoon's session. Also labelled 'communal discernment,' this method derives from the tradition of St Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises and requires prayer, deep listening to the Word of God, sharing and listening, as well as open conversation. The aim of the process is to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit by listening to the Word of God and others.

¹ [chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/FINAL-Decree-7-At-the-Service-of-Communion-Participation-and-Mission-Governance.pdf](https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/FINAL-Decree-7-At-the-Service-of-Communion-Participation-and-Mission-Governance.pdf)

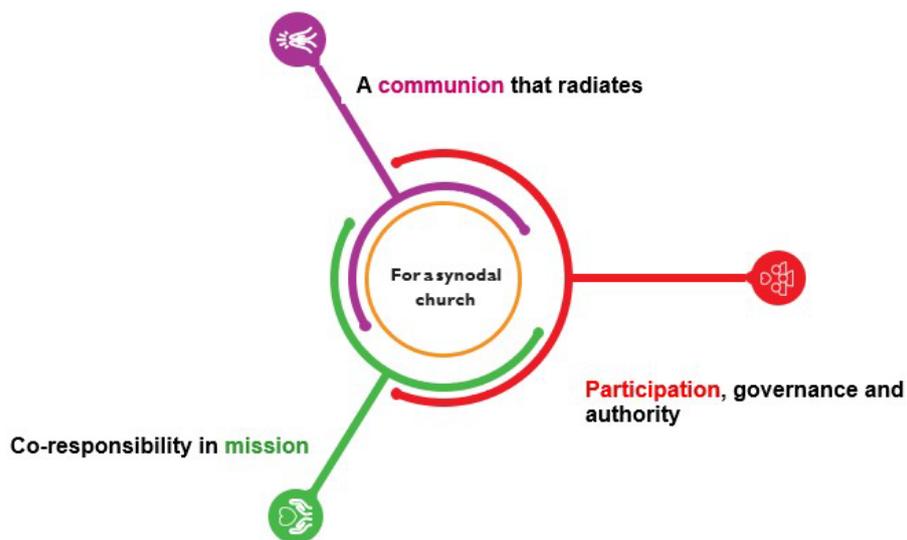
The heart of the Formation Day took place in the afternoon as Delegates entered into the process of listening and discernment and reflected on the question: **As we look towards the establishment of a Diocesan Pastoral Council, how can we be an authentic expression of Synodality?** Divided into groups of six and guided by a facilitator, the Delegates spent the afternoon praying, reflecting, sharing, listening and eventually capturing their answers in short summaries. The fruit of their discernment was summarised into a synthesis document that Delegates were able to access following the Formation Day.

Ongoing formation

Between September 2023 and July 2024, Assembly delegates were required to attend ongoing formation sessions to become better acquainted with the process of listening and discernment and continue the journey towards the Diocesan Assembly. A total of seven listening and discernment sessions were offered to Delegates in various locations, and at various times, throughout the Archdiocese and online. Delegates were required to attend at least two of these sessions and strongly encouraged to attend more sessions if they were able.

Facilitated by members of the Diocesan Assembly Reference Group, the sessions were divided into the three themes that have been at the heart of the Synod of Bishops 2021-2024: Communion, Mission and Participation.

Each session invited Delegates into a similar process as the one they experienced on the formation day, but with discernment questions that reflected different aspects of synodality. A breakdown of the themes, and some examples of questions for discernment used at the sessions, can be found below:



- How can the people of God within the Archdiocese of Perth, under the guidance of the Archbishop, grow into deeper communion with God and one another in reflecting Jesus the Good Shepherd as a 'sacrament of communion and unity' (*Lumen Gentium* 1)?

- How can we move towards a more synodal co-responsibility in the life of our Archdiocese, where there is a fuller realisation of the vocations, charisms and ministries of all the Baptised in a missionary key?
- How could a synodal approach, fostering prayerfulness, listening & discernment, conversion of hearts & minds, encourage greater participation in the life and mission of the church in our parishes/organisations, and on a diocesan level?

In order to reflect the practice of 'restitution to those who participated in the process' seen at the Synod of Bishops², synthesis documents reflecting the fruits of discernment on each theme were circulated to the Delegates for reflection.

Throughout these 10 months, Delegates were regularly invited to visit the perthcatholic.org.au website and review some of the talks and documents contained in the Diocesan Assembly tab with valuable information on three topics that they were asked to become familiar with. These were the concept of synodality, what diocesan pastoral councils are and the listening and discernment process.

A Diocesan Assembly timeline highlighting the main elements of journeying together 'led by the Spirit' was also distributed to Delegates, along with a regular reminder to contact the Centre for Faith Enrichment, the Archdiocese of Perth's adult faith formation agency, for any questions or clarifications.

Fr Eamonn Conway

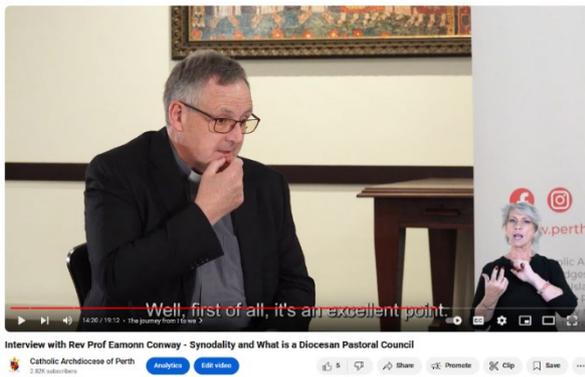


Fr Conway is a priest of the Archdiocese of Tuam (Ireland) and Professor of Integral Human Development in the School of Philosophy & Theology, University of Notre Dame Australia.

He also edited the recent book *The Synodal Pathway: When Rhetoric Meets Reality* (2022).

Fr Eamonn facilitated a series of talks in the archdiocese including *Synodality and The Future of The Catholic Church: A Journey Towards Communion, Participation and Mission* at the Centre for Faith Enrichment which attracted more than forty participants.

² Synod of Bishops *Instrumentum Laboris*, p. 52.



In addition, Tara Peters conducted two interviews with Fr Conway. The first was on the process of listening and discernment. The second was on synodality and diocesan pastoral councils. These were filmed and proved to be valuable resources for Delegates. They were made available to Delegates on the Archdiocesan website along with other resources.

Diocesan Assembly 13 July 2024

The Diocesan Assembly was designed to bring together delegates from across the archdiocese, predominantly from parishes. A number also came from the various agencies providing valuable services to the community. Delegates included a blend of lay, religious and ordained ministers.

Gemma Thomson, Dean of Mission and Catholic Identity at Iona Presentation College, Mosman Park, was the MC for the Assembly.

Tara Peters, Chief Mission Integration Officer, St John of God Health Care, facilitated each of the listening and discernment sessions of the Diocesan Assembly.

The day commenced with an acknowledgement of country and transitioned into a time of sustained prayer facilitated by the Centre for Liturgy.

Auxiliary Bishop Don Sproxton addressed the delegates, providing them with an historical perspective on previous diocesan pastoral councils in the Archdiocese.



Fr Vincent Glynn then provided an address on some of the theological foundations underpinning the participation of the faithful in the discernment of the signs of the times in the light of the gospel. He stressed that each one participating in the Diocesan Assembly had an important role to play and were united in the task by virtue of their baptism.

Fr Vincent also reminded delegates that one of the final decrees of the Fifth Plenary Council of the Catholic Church in Australia called on all Catholic dioceses in Australia to establish and maintain a flourishing diocesan pastoral council.



Finally, Delegates were reminded that the purpose of the Assembly was to recommend to Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB how the DPC could embody synodality in its structure and processes.

The first session for the day provided delegates with an opportunity to reflect on the synthesis documents of the formation day as well as the ongoing formation sessions.

Delegates were sent summaries of the material compiled as a result of the formation sessions as pre-reading in preparation for the Assembly.

They were asked to reflect on and discuss the key points that struck them from this significant body of information distilled from the spiritual conversations and discernment of the delegates.

Reflecting on the Scripture passage (1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-11) and attuning our hearts to the synthesis report of the journey we have been on during the last 12 months, what speaks to you most?

The following represents a summary of the key points to emerge from the reflection and discussion.

Missionary Call and Synodality

The call to mission and evangelisation was at the heart of the Assembly's discernment. Delegates were challenged to rediscover their baptismal call and to embrace the charism of eternal newness that comes with it.

Inclusivity and Diversity

Inclusivity was a deeply resonant theme throughout the Assembly, with a clear recognition that the Church must become a more welcoming and inclusive community, bearing witness to hospitality in demonstrable ways. Delegates discussed the importance of ensuring that all people feel valued and included in the life of the Church. This includes a specific focus on the inclusion of marginalised groups, such as Aboriginal communities, migrants, and those who may feel disconnected or unwelcome within the Church. The Assembly called for intentional efforts to build a vibrant community that ensures everyone has a place at the table.

Governance, Structure and Formation

The theme of governance and structure emerged as a critical focus of the Assembly's discussions. Delegates underscored the need for robust, yet flexible, governance structures that support the Church's mission without becoming burdensome. There was a strong call for a Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) that genuinely adds value to the Archdiocese.

Recognition and Acknowledgement

A recurring theme throughout the Assembly was the recognition of the Church's journey so far. Delegates expressed gratitude for the progress made and the diverse strengths that have been cultivated within the Archdiocese. There was a collective sense of appreciation for the contributions of all participants, with particular emphasis on the fruits of the discernment sessions.

Challenges to Address

The Assembly was candid in its recognition of the challenges facing the Church, including disconnection, frustration, and resistance to change. While progress has been made, several critical challenges remain that require attention:

- **Marginalisation and Loss:** Many feel disconnected or uncared for by the Church, particularly considering the sexual abuse crisis, which has caused deep sorrow and suffering. There is a pressing need for prophetic action, reconciliation, and healing.
- **Inclusion and Representation:** Ensuring meaningful inclusion of marginalised groups, including Aboriginal communities and those who have left the Church, is vital.
- **Women's Roles:** The Church must better recognise and incorporate the unique contribution that women make in the life of the Church including where important decisions are made.
- **Youth Engagement:** The future of the Church depends on effectively engaging youth. Creative approaches and authentic witness are necessary to retain and attract young members.

The first listening and discernment question to be considered by delegates was:

In light of the reflection and discernment so far, what are the pastoral matters that the Diocesan Pastoral Council should address at this time?

A synthesis of the session follows below.

Mission, Evangelisation, and Outreach

The DPC should prioritise engagement within the Archdiocese to enable all members of the Church to feel valued and included. This includes a focus on bolder evangelisation efforts and outreach to marginalised groups, such as First Nations communities and those who feel disconnected from the Church, aiming to reconnect with Catholics, practicing or otherwise.

The DPC could also emphasise the importance of engaging young people and integrating the diverse cultural backgrounds present within the Archdiocese. Priests and lay leaders should be formed in synodality.

Parish Support and Revitalisation

A primary pastoral priority for the DPC is to strengthen the support and connection between the Archdiocese and its parishes, particularly smaller metro parishes that often feel under-resourced. The DPC could focus on fostering a more vibrant and engaged parish life by encouraging collaboration through parish hubs and networks and supporting lay involvement and engaging volunteers.

Faith Formation and Engagement

It was recommended that the DPC should prioritise ongoing formation and education as a key pastoral priority. Faith engagement and formation are central to the church's mission, requiring a comprehensive approach that reaches both practicing and non-practicing Catholics. A well-formed clergy and laity are essential for the Church's mission to evangelise and serve the community. Lifelong faith education must be accessible to all demographics, with special attention given to engaging youth and supporting families.

Listening, Discernment and Community Building

To strengthen connections between parishes and the Archdiocese, the Assembly highlights the importance of inclusive dialogue and community building. Listening and discernment are essential aspects of synodality, and it was recommended that the DPC should prioritise creating spaces where all voices can be heard. This process will be critical in addressing the complex pastoral challenges facing the Archdiocese.

Leadership and Governance

Effective leadership and governance are critical to achieving the diocese's pastoral goals. The Assembly recommends prioritising the formation, training and empowerment of lay leaders. Transparent decision-making processes, clear lines of authority, and accountability would be important to ensure that the DPC operates efficiently and effectively. Keeping Christ at the centre of all decisions and actions will help the church remain focused on its mission.

The second listening and discernment question considered by delegates was:

Considering how a Diocesan Pastoral Council could encourage greater participation in the mission of the Archdiocese, who should be considered for membership of the Diocesan Pastoral Council?

A synthesis of the session is provided below.

Mission and Formation

It was recommended that members of the DPC should undergo regular formation to deepen their understanding and commitment. This could include retreats, educational sessions, and

ongoing formation related to the Church's mission. Continuous development will keep members engaged and equipped to fulfill their roles effectively.

Representation and Diversity

DPC members should be capable of considering the broader makeup of the Church and its communities. This diversity could include marginalised groups, social commentators, and individuals from various professional backgrounds. Special attention could be given to reaching out to new Catholics, indigenous peoples, youth, and those with disabilities to ensure comprehensive representation. It was noted that it is impractical to have representation of all members of the community on the DPC itself, thus the emphasis on selected members being conduits to the broader community.

Attributes and Qualities

The canonical guidelines for DPC membership include being Christ-centered, prayerful, and in communion with the Church. The delegates of the Archdiocesan Assembly built on this by emphasising the importance of further qualities such as empathy, discernment, passion, and dedication. Practical skills to consider include good communication, strategic thinking, and practical problem-solving abilities.

Communication and Reporting

The Assembly recommended processes for regular updates from agencies and encouraged the sharing of information with parishes. This ensures transparency, accountability, and effective communication across all levels of the diocese. The Assembly emphasised the need for adequate administrative support to manage communication and secretariat functions efficiently.

Selection and Nomination Process

A transparent and inclusive selection process is crucial. The selection could involve a mix of nominations and selections, with an emphasis on broad advertising through various channels. The process should be prayerful and discerning, ensuring candidates have the time, energy, and willingness to devote to the Council's work.

The day concluded with comments from Archbishop Costelloe including the anticipated next steps towards the re-establishment of the DPC. In focussing on these next steps, Archbishop Costelloe stressed that it was important for those involved in these important next steps, to continue to model synodality in the deliberations.

Archbishop Costelloe thanked the delegates for the significant amount of time that they had devoted to the journey of the Archdiocesan Assembly. He also expressed his sincere gratitude to the members of the Diocesan Assembly Reference Group.

Diocesan Pastoral Council Implementation Advisory Group

Archbishop Costelloe has appointed a group to coordinate the work that needs to be undertaken following the conclusion of the Diocesan Assembly. The initial membership and terms of reference are listed below. Additional members will be appointed in due course.

Membership

Bishop Don Sproxton, Co-Chair
Debra Sayce, Co-Chair
Tony Giglia, Executive Officer

Terms of Reference

1. To review the final report of the Diocesan Assembly Reference Group
2. To draft the Statutes for the Diocesan Pastoral Council
3. To manage the appointment process for Diocesan Pastoral Council Members
4. To make recommendations to Archbishop Costelloe of those to be appointed as members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council.

Statutes Under Which the DPC Will Operate

One of the tasks to be considered in establishing the DPC, is a set of statutes to guide its operation.

The statutes could address items including, but not limited to

- Role and Purpose of the DPC
- How the DPC will operate
- Membership
- How membership is called for
- How members are appointed by the Archbishop
- Membership criteria
- Conflicts of Interest
- Ceasing operations when the See is Vacant
- Amendments to the Statutes
- Protocols

Relationship of the Diocesan Pastoral Council to Other Diocesan Agencies

Consideration will also need to be given to how the DPC will interact with the other groups that are already in place in the Archdiocese. These include, but are not limited to

- Curia
- Council of Priests
- Consultors
- Finance Council
- Risk and Audit Committee
- Executive Directors
- Catholic Archdiocese of Perth Administration Centre (CAPAC) Executive

References (*The eRecord & The Record Magazine*)

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25 May 2023

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8 June 2023

<https://therecord.com.au/news/local/diocesan-assembly-launch-god-who-is-trinity-is-a-god-of-love-says-fr-vincent-glynn/>

14 June 2023

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15 September 2023

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12 October 2023

<https://therecord.com.au/news/local/special-report-archdiocesan-assembly-2023-2024-delegates-commence-formation-called-to-journey-together-led-by-the-spirit/>

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21 June 2024

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28 June 2024

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29 August 2024

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