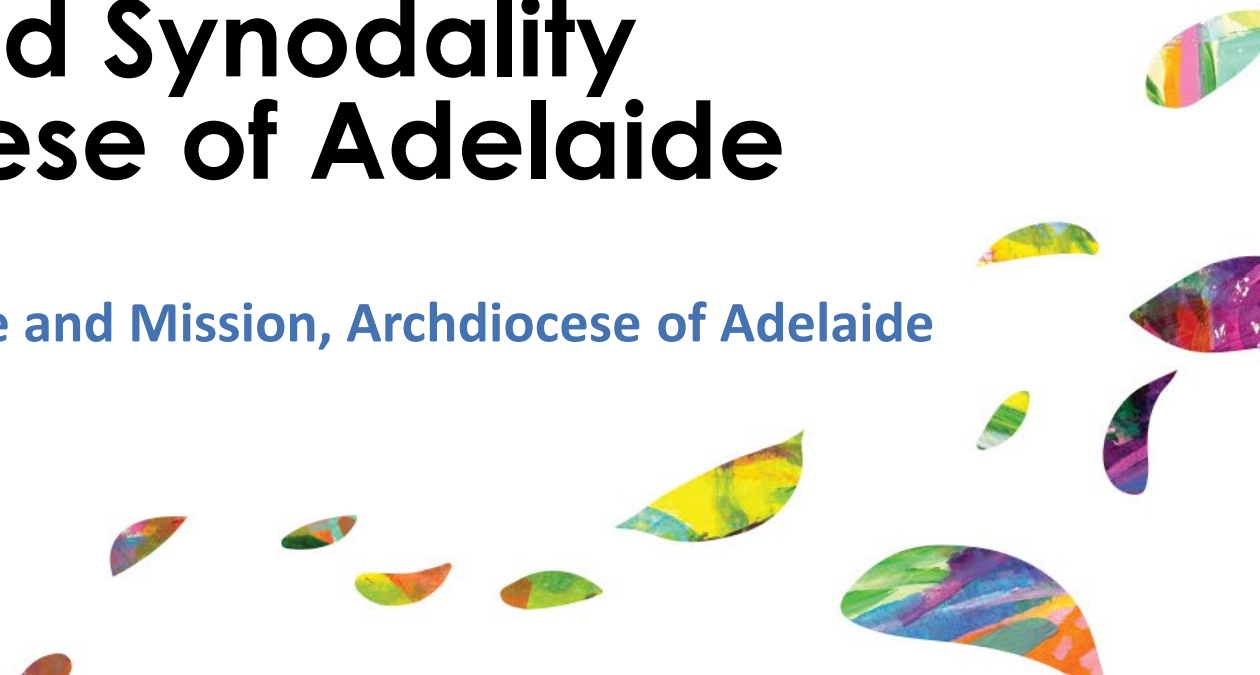


Drawn into the Joy of the Gospel

**Formation and Synodality
in the Archdiocese of Adelaide**

Peter Bierer | Asst. Director Pastoral Life and Mission, Archdiocese of Adelaide





Welcome!



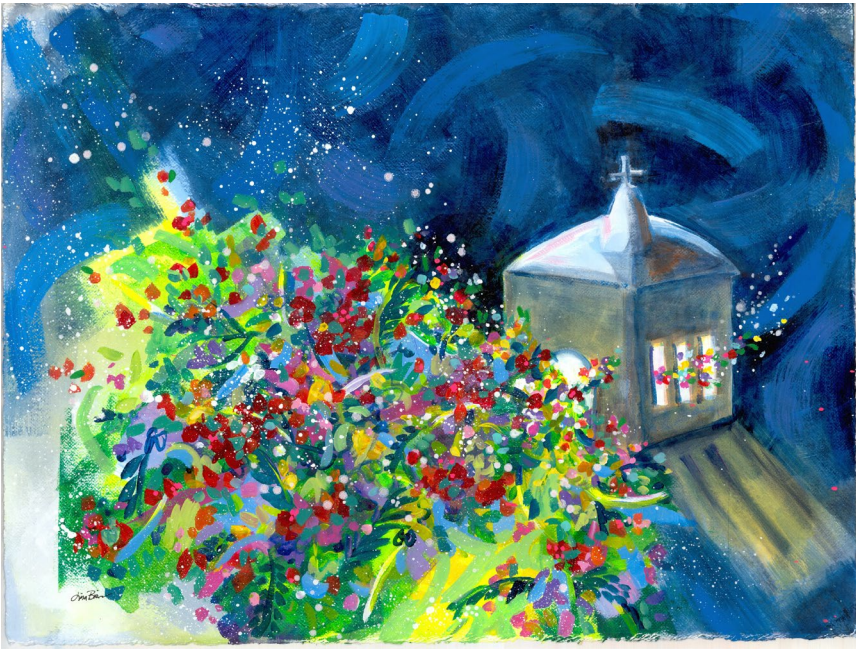


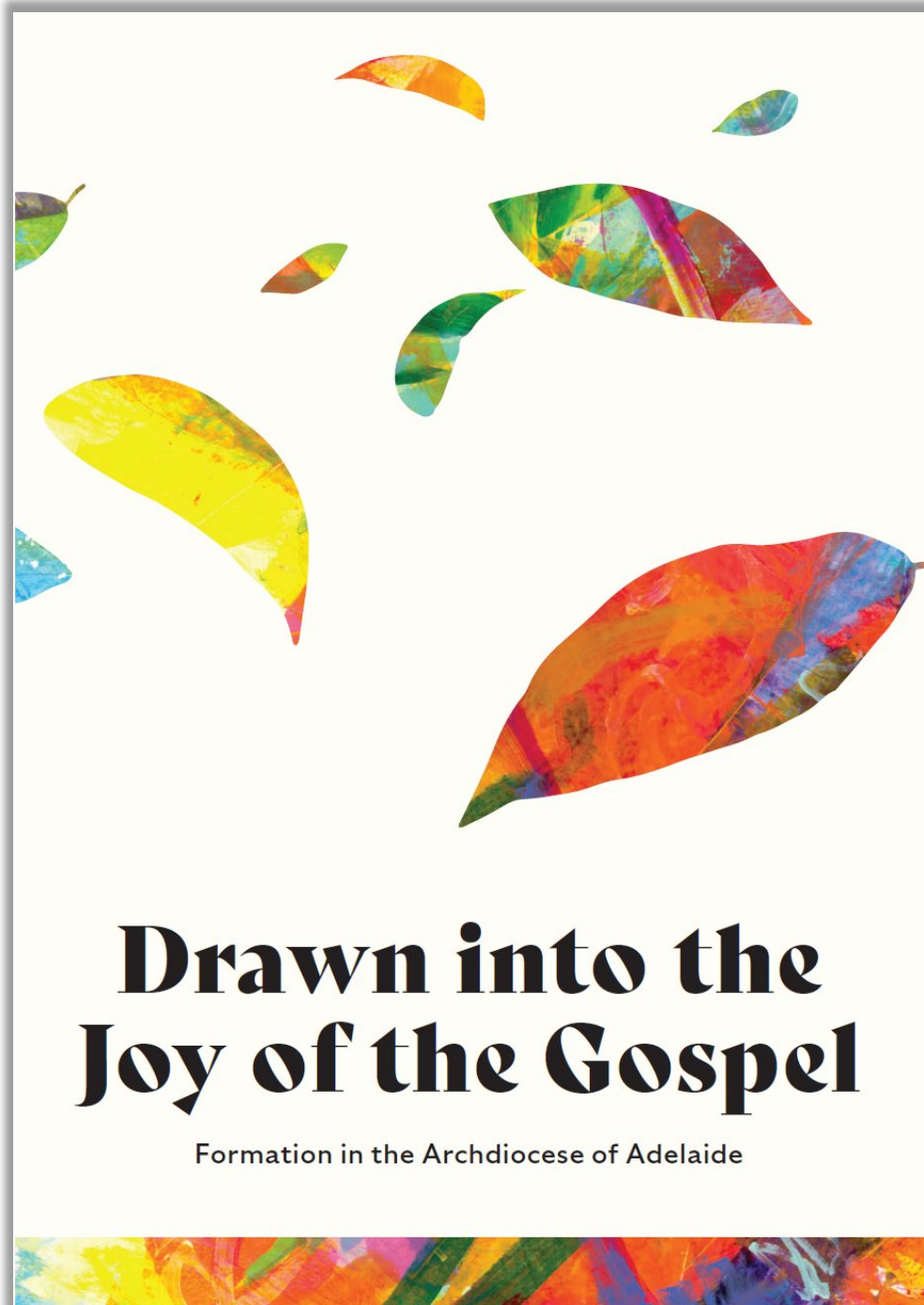
Am Ben



Reflect

- What did you see or hear?
- What words or images are resonating with you?
- What are you being called to do in response?





1. Formation for Missionary Discipleship
2. Formation for Church Renewal
3. Formation in Parishes and Communities
4. Formation for Ministry and Mission

2021



Plenary Council
Listen to what the Spirit is saying...



Adelaide
Diocesan Assembly



Synod
2021
2024

For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission





2022



**Adelaide
Diocesan Assembly**





Regional Assemblies





**Adelaide
Diocesan Assembly**





Becoming a Synodal Church on Mission

Formation for Leadership
and Mission



ARCHDIOCESE OF ADELAIDE

**SYNOD
2026**



What were people talking about when they talked about formation??

- Leadership
- Catechesis
- Experiences
- Liturgy
- Theology
- Scripture
- Community
- Sacrament
- *“When we don’t know they answer, we seek deeper formation”*





**Formation
Working Group
(2022)**

***Drawn into the
Joy of the
Gospel (2023)***

**Ministry
Formation
Program
Review (2023)**

**Diocesan
Formation
Commission
(2024)**

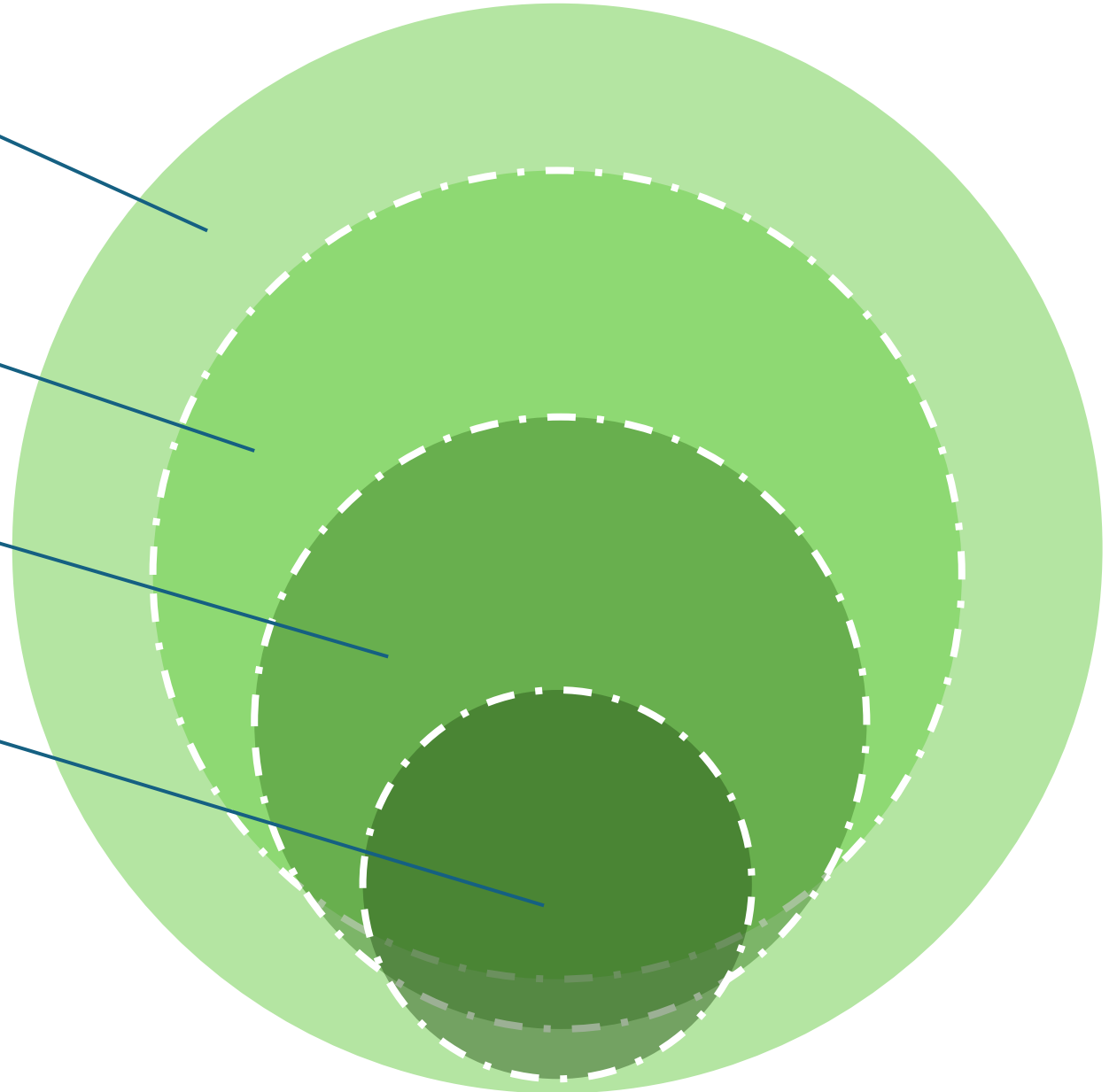


Lifelong faith formation of the whole person

Formation for Participation in Ministry and the Mission of the Church

Formation for Pastoral Ministry

Formation for Leadership in a Synodal Church





Synodal Formation

X

Formation for Synodality





What makes formation ‘synodal’?

- Everyone together
- Listening and dialogue based on questions and experiences
- Avoid ready-made answers
- Shared discernment
 - Reflection on scripture, theology and the Tradition
- Exploration and discovery



Synodal Formation



The holy People of God require proper formation so that they can witness to the joy of the Gospel and grow in the practice of synodality: first of all, in the freedom of sons and daughters of God in following Jesus Christ, **contemplated in prayer and recognised in those who are poor.** Synodality implies a profound vocational and missionary awareness, the source of a renewed way of living ecclesial relations and new dynamics regarding participation. It also means adopting the practice of ecclesial discernment and a culture of ongoing evaluation. These cannot come about unless accompanied by focused formation processes. **Formation in synodality and**

the Church's synodal style will make people aware that the gifts received in Baptism should be put to use for the good of all: they cannot be hidden or remain unused.



Synodal Formation



One of the requests that emerged most strongly and from all contexts during the synodal process is that the formation provided by the Christian community be **integral, ongoing and shared**. Such formation must aim not only at acquiring theoretical **knowledge** but also at promoting the capacity for **openness and encounter, sharing and collaboration, reflection and discernment in common**. Formation must consequently engage all the dimensions of the human person (**intellectual, affective, relational and spiritual**) and include concrete **experiences** that are appropriately **accompanied**.

-FD 143



Formation for Synodality



Formation is needed in order to engage in decision-making processes grounded in ecclesial discernment and which reflect a culture of transparency, accountability, and evaluation. The formation required is not only technical; it also needs to explore theological, biblical and spiritual foundations. All the Baptised need this formation in witness, mission, holiness and service, which emphasises co-responsibility. It takes on particular forms for those in positions of responsibility or at the service of ecclesial discernment.

-FD 80



Formation for Synodality



It is essential to offer formation opportunities that spread and nourish a culture of **ecclesial discernment focused on mission** in local Churches, starting from small ecclesial communities and parishes. This is particularly necessary amongst those who hold leadership roles. It is equally important to encourage the formation of facilitators, whose contribution is often crucial to the process of discernment.

-FD 86



Reflect

- Can you identify a formation experience in your own life that has been **synodal**?
- Can you identify formation that has developed ***synodality***?







Examples

- Assemblies
- Diocesan Pastoral Council, ongoing formation
- Connection between DPC and Council of Priests
- Parish Pastoral Council Formation
- Gatherings of Parish Priests and PPC chairpersons
- Gathering of diocesan councils and commissions
- Tools and Resources (e.g. Synod Final Document Parish Eval tool)
- Framework for Leadership in a Synodal Church (DPC)
- Parish formation program (launch in 2026)
- Collaborative Leadership Program
- Alignment of all ministry training and formation to “*Drawn*”
- 2026 Synod Formation Process

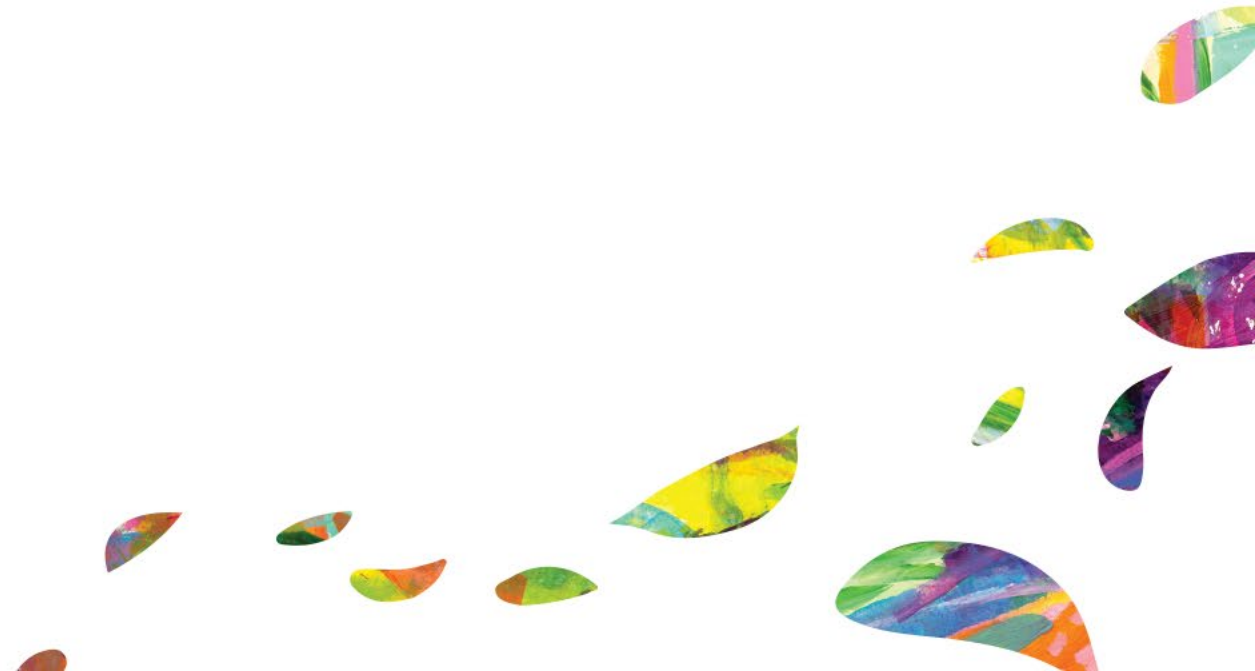


Next Steps

- Formation for 2026 Synod
 - Parish Formation Program
 - Collaborative Leadership Program
 - Recruiting a Diocesan Formation Team
- 
- 



Open Questions:

- Seminarians and clergy
- Lay leadership formation





Best Practices

- Importance of prayer, beauty and silence
 - Asking good questions is more important than giving good answers
 - Modeling and practicing
 - Piloting /testing, evaluation and improvement
 - Collaboration
 - Subsidiarity
 - Train the trainer
- 
- 

Questions and Sharing





The formation in faith of the whole people of God is integral to the life of the [local Church]—it is fundamental to our being drawn into the joy of the gospel. Richer celebrations of the Eucharist, a deeper prayer life, greater insight into the scriptures, a fuller knowledge of the Christian tradition throughout the centuries—each of these will lead us to further embrace the tenderness of God. And in that embrace, we will have “an endless desire to show mercy” (*EG*, §24), seeking to transform our parishes and neighbourhoods. Formation in faith is, therefore, an ongoing, life-long task for the whole people of God—parishes and communities, and all who serve them as ministers in the church.

-Drawn into the Joy of the Gospel

Thank you

adelaidediocesanassembly.org

adelaide.catholic.org.au/pastoralservices (go to publications)

