

## **Sense of the Faithful website**

Newsletter No 11,  
21 August 2023

### **Monitoring the implementation of the Plenary Council decisions**

Within Australia, the most important event for the Catholic Church in recent times has been the Plenary Council, which concluded in July 2022. While the outcomes were widely viewed as mixed at best, there were some important decisions made. The Sense of the Faithful is monitoring the implementation of these decisions by dioceses and parishes across Australia. As initial outcomes of this work, we publish below two articles:

#### **The response of Australian Catholic Dioceses on three key issues**

#### **The Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst's process for setting up a Diocesan Pastoral Council**

### **Towards a Synodal Church – The Global Synod 2021–24**

In an address in Rome on 17 October 2015, Pope Francis proclaimed that “It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium”. Over the intervening years, the shift from the old to the new – from a hierarchical to a synodal Church – has progressively gathered momentum.

Globally, the 2021–24 Synod – ‘For a Synodal Church’ – is emerging as the most significant gathering for the Church since the Second Vatican Council 60 years ago. An extensive consultation process has been undertaken, covering all regions of the world and many levels of the Church. Drawing on that feedback, an impressive *Instrumentum Laboris* (Working Document) has been published (see <https://www.synod.va/en.html>). To contribute to understanding this important event, we publish below five articles:

#### **Executive summary**

#### **What is different about this Synod on synodality?**

#### **An introduction to the Synod's working document**

#### **Vastly different views on reform: Australia and New Zealand**

#### **The continental stage of the Synod consultations, process and key priorities**

**The first Assembly will be from 4-29 October 2023.**