



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CAIRNS

Media Release

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Diocese of Cairns Announces 2025-2026 Synod to Strengthen Faith and Community Engagement

The Diocese of Cairns has announced the convocation of a Diocesan Synod, a significant initiative aimed at fostering greater dialogue, unity, and pastoral planning within the Catholic community. Scheduled to begin on Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2025, and conclude on Pentecost Sunday, May 24, 2026, the Synod will provide an opportunity for clergy, religious, and laity to come together in prayerful discernment and consultation.

Bishop Joseph Caddy AM, who was appointed six months ago, has travelled extensively across the diocese, engaging with parishes, schools, and key diocesan agencies. Through these visits, he has observed both the strengths and challenges facing the faith community.

The major topics that the Synod seeks to address are:

1. To establish ongoing synodal processes of consultation
2. Develop a plan for the establishment of a Diocesan Pastoral Council.

“The Diocese of Cairns is vast and diverse, and this Synod will help us listen more deeply to the voices of our people,” said Bishop Caddy “It’s an opportunity to create stronger pastoral strategies, build greater unity, and respond to the needs of our communities, from youth engagement to climate and social justice issues.”

The preparatory phase begins this Lent, focusing on education, prayer and the formation of a Preparatory Commission to oversee the Synod’s structure. The process will involve open plenary sessions, consultations, and key discussions leading up to the Final Plenary Assembly on May 17, 2026.

Bishop Caddy invited all the faithful to pray for the success of the Synod and concluded, saying, “What we aim to achieve through the Synod is to embed synodality into our DNA so that this method of listening deeply to the many voices and invoking the guidance of the Holy Spirit will simply become the way we do business here in the Diocese.”

For further details on the Synod and how to participate, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/synodcairns>

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