

PATRICK

ARCHBISHOP

OF ADELAIDE

METROPOLITAN

DECREE

On Pentecost Sunday, 8th June, 2025 I formally convoked the first Synod in the Archdiocese of Adelaide in accordance with Canons 460-468 of the Code of Canon Law and the Instruction of Diocesan Synods (1997).

The Synod opened on Friday, 29th May 2026 with an Opening Mass, followed by Session One on Saturday 30th May 2026 and concluded with Session Two on Saturday, 27th June 2026. The Synod had as its theme “As the Father sent me, so I am sending you” John 20:21-22, A Synodal Church on Mission.

The Diocesan Synod was convoked to discern the pastoral priorities for the good of the Diocesan Community with an aim to build up and foster ecclesial Community and unity.

Preceding the Synod, the Archdiocese of Adelaide engaged in a process of prayer, listening, dialogue and discernment to learn and understand the path to becoming a more synodal Church. The broader context is situated after having 3 Diocesan Assemblies and various Regional Assemblies, the Plenary Council and the Global Synod on Synodality. The work of the Diocesan Synod was undertaken in the context of discernment: seeking and responding to God’s call in this Archdiocese at this time. Importantly it involved prayer, reading of Scripture and an openness to the Holy Spirit, both individually and collectively.

Through a combination of prayer, analysis and discernment, five key themes were identified and presented in the Working Document “A Synodal Church on Mission”:

1. Becoming Mission Disciples
2. Communion in Grace- Sacrament to the World
3. Mission of Catholic Education and Being Church Together
4. Formation for Mission and Leadership
5. Structures and Planning for Communion, Mission and Participation

The Synod assembly was composed of 90 members, 2 observers and 1 peritus. During the Synod assembly all recommendations were affirmed, having at least a two-thirds majority cast of votes.

A Synod Implementation Working Group will be established, made up of members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council and Bishop's Council of Priests and members of the faithful in the Archdiocese, to turn the Synod outcomes into practical, resourced and accountable actions.

Having listened to the People of God, and judging it to be good for this local Church of Adelaide, I, the Most Reverend Patrick O'Regan, by this decree do promulgate the attached Declarations One to Five to inform the pastoral plan for the Archdiocese of Adelaide, to come into effect immediately and to be published in the Southern Cross Newspaper (cf 466).

Given at Adelaide this 20th day of August 2026.

+ Pat O'Regan

Most Rev Patrick Michael O'Regan DD

Archbishop of Adelaide

[Signature]

Notary



Attached Declarations:

- Declaration One: Becoming Mission Disciples
- Declaration Two: Communion in Grace- Sacrament to the World
- Declaration Three: Mission of Catholic Education and Being Church Together
- Declaration Four: Formation for Mission and Leadership
- Declaration Five: Structures and Planning for Communion, Mission and Participation