

# The Nod

SYNOD 2012



December 2010

GO MAKE DISCIPLES

Celebrate the past  
Engage with the present  
Envision the future

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The Nod

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## Welcome to the first issue of The Nod

Welcome to the first issue of *The Nod*, the official newsletter for the Diocese of Broken Bay's Synod 2012!

*The Nod*, short for Synod, is designed to provide information to all Catholics in the Diocese of Broken Bay and others interested in our forthcoming Synod.

As we celebrate 25 years as a Diocese, Bishop David Walker has called a Synod for the Diocese of Broken Bay with the focus on:

- Celebrating the past
- Engaging in the present
- Envisioning the future

The Synod has four main phases, starting with initial consultation with the Council of Priests, the Diocesan Pastoral Council and staff from the Curia (Bishop's Office, Parish Support Unit, Catholic Schools Office, Broken Bay Institute and Centacare).

In February 2011, consultation will commence with parishioners, Clergy, Parish

Pastoral Councils, and Catholic school parents.

The first Synod Gathering will take place in June 2011. This will be an opportunity to celebrate our achievements as well to identify the important issues facing our Diocese currently and into the future, using in part the issues raised in the initial consultations. The Gathering will aim to prioritise and refine these issues.

Further consultation on the outcome of the first Synod Gathering will continue from July 2011 until May 2012, leading up to the final Synod Gathering in June 2012 where representatives of the Clergy, parishes, Diocesan Curia and other Diocesan groups will synthesise the way forward by compiling a list of vision statements and actions.

It is anticipated that this list may be used to inform future planning from a Diocesan, parish and agency perspective for the Diocese of Broken Bay.

## Have your say

February 2011 will be the time when you get to have your say at the Synod.

Parishioner surveys will be distributed to all parishes in the Diocese of Broken Bay for everyone to complete. The survey will also be available online

[www.dbb.org.au/ourdiocese/synod](http://www.dbb.org.au/ourdiocese/synod)

Surveys will be made available to parents of Catholic school children in Diocesan Catholic Schools, as well as parents of

Catholic children in State Schools through the CCD Ministry.

Your answers to the initial survey will shape the Synod. The survey will be simple and parish-focused; asking questions about what you like about your parish and its accomplishments, and any issues facing your parish as we look towards the future.

Look out for your surveys in your parish on the second weekend of February.



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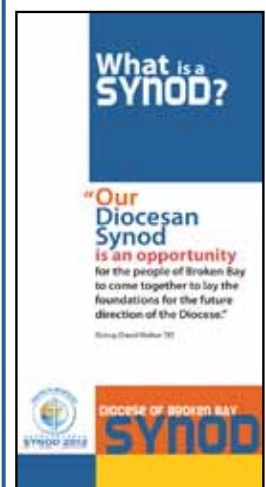
Have you  
picked up your  
Synod  
brochure?

For more detailed information about the Broken Bay Synod and its processes, look out for the brochure "What is a Synod?" It is now available in your parish or online via the Synod website.



The Synod at all times will ask its participants to think on three levels:

- Personal
- Parish
- Diocesan



[www.dbb.org.au/ourdiocese/synod](http://www.dbb.org.au/ourdiocese/synod)



*As a Diocese of the Catholic Church we have a duty to uphold traditions, but there are new possibilities.*



*Each representative to Synod 2012 brings special skills that will enable the process to move quickly and professionally, creating an even better result.*



*Reflecting on and celebrating the past 25 years as a Diocese will be the first step in moving towards a greater future as a Catholic Community in Broken Bay.*

## We need a prayer!

While there will be many activities and opportunities to participate in the process of the Synod on a personal, parish, deanery and Diocesan level over the next 18 months, there is a way that members of our Diocesan faith community can be involved right now.

For the Synod to reach its full potential it must be grounded in prayer. We are looking to develop a "Synod Prayer" that could be used throughout the Diocese at Mass, in homes, in prayer groups, at Synod events and meetings, as we move through the process of the Synod.

Parishioners are invited, either individually or in groups, to create and submit a Synod Prayer. The format for prayer submissions is open to your inspiration, however you should consider the context in which the prayer will be used and its application to a wide cross section of people that will be praying it.

All submissions will be considered by the Synod Task Force and the prayer that is adopted as the official Synod Prayer may be one of the prayers submitted or perhaps a combination of a number of submissions.

Prayers can be submitted to Natalie Acton by email on [natalie.acton@dbb.org.au](mailto:natalie.acton@dbb.org.au) or by post to PO Box 390 The Entrance NSW 2261. The closing date for submissions is 24 December 2010.



## Synod Task Force

To bring together a project such as this requires the co-operation of a team of people who work together to facilitate the many activities and processes of the Synod. They are committed to ensure that the project is conducted with honesty and transparency, and is both faithful to the obligations of Canon Law and in accordance with the intention of the Bishop and the people of the Broken Bay Diocese.

The Synod Task Force is an advisory body comprised of representatives of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, (Carole Cogdon and Frank Doughty), Clergy (Father Brian Moloney), Paul Durkin, Deacon Elect, Catholic Schools Office staff (Gail Gill, Senior Education Officer) and Diocesan

staff members (Natalie Acton, Project Co-ordinator - Synod, David Penny, Curia Co-ordinator and Carole Gan, Director - Parish Support). The Task Force is chaired by Fr Brian Moloney. Peter Hamill, Assistant Director of the Catholic Schools Office will join the Synod Task Force in 2011, replacing Gail Gill.

### Synod Operations

Engaged to provide communications support to the Synod is Communications Project Officer Melissa Loughlin and advising on the liturgical aspects of the Synod is Diocesan Liturgy Co-ordinator Julie Kelly.



*Synod Task Force: (back) Fr Brian Moloney, Gail Gill, Carole Gan, Frank Doughty. (Front) Carole Cogdon, Natalie Acton, David Penny. Absent - Paul Durkin.*

Keep up to date with the Broken Bay Synod on our website:  
[www.dbb.org.au/ourdiocese/synod](http://www.dbb.org.au/ourdiocese/synod)  
 or find us on Facebook:  
 Synod 2012, Diocese of Broken Bay  
 or follow us on Twitter:  
[www.twitter.com/BBSynod](http://www.twitter.com/BBSynod)

