



**Pastoral
Discernment**
Central Coast

Participant Handbook



CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
BROKEN BAY



**As we
Journey forward together you are invited to consider,**

How is God calling the people of the Central Coast to journey forward together as pilgrim and missionary people of God?

Welcome

Thank you for participating in the consultation phase of the Pastoral Discernment, Central Coast project. In this phase of the project, you are invited to give God thanks for the way in which the Spirit is at work in the life of the local Church, and to consider new possibilities for both its growth and the future of the region.

This **Participant Handbook** has been developed to provide you with a space to write/ journal as you **review, reflect, and respond** during the listening and dialogue rounds.

During the pastoral discernment listening and dialogue rounds you are invited to reflect, respond, and review the circumstances, opportunities and challenges that may be considered to ensure that a sustainable and thriving ecclesial community exists for the Central Coast region of the Diocese. Journeying forward together requires us to discern, as a community, our context through connection, prayer, reflection, sharing with one another and seeking God's direction.

In responding to the Pastoral Discernment themes, each participant is invited to;



RECALL YOUR EXPERIENCES: What experiences of our region of the Central Coast does this question call to mind?



RE-CONSIDER THESE EXPERIENCES IN GREATER DEPTH: What joys did they bring? What difficulties and obstacles have they encountered? What wounds did they reveal? What insights have they elicited?



GATHER THE FRUITS TO SHARE: Where in these experiences does the voice of the Holy Spirit resound? What is the spirit asking of us? What are the points to be confirmed, the prospects for change, the steps to be taken? Where do we register a consensus? What paths are opening up for our local community of the Central Coast?

All are welcome to participate in the discernment consultation and we invite the Holy Spirit to guide us as we begin this journey.

Pastoral Discernment themes and guiding questions

Walking together

Guided by the Holy Spirit helping us discover and share the variety of gifts, charisms, and ministries of our communities.



In our community who are those who walk together with us?



Who are those in our community who are further apart?



How are we called to grow as companions?



What groups or individuals are left on the margins?



In which ways can we walk together and share our gifts, charisms and ministries within our community and beyond?

Recall my experiences

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What am I hearing the group say?

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Gather the fruits to share. Our group response is....

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Listening

Having an open heart and mind to hear what other are saying



How is God speaking to us through voices we sometimes ignore?



How are people listened to, especially women and young people?



How well do we listen to those on the peripheries?



What space is there for voice of minorities, especially people who have experience poverty, marginalization, or social exclusion?



How can we involve listening opportunities that include all those in our community and beyond?

Recall my experiences

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What am I hearing the group say?

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Gather the fruits to share. Our group response is....

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Sharing the Story

**Allowing all to express themselves, to be heard,
and to speak with authentic courage**



What enables or hinders speaking up courageously, candidly and responsibly in our community of the Central Coast and society?



When and how do we manage to say what is important to us?



How do we provide opportunities that allow others to share their story with us?

Recall my experiences

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What am I hearing the group say?

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Gather the fruits to share. Our group response is....

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Participation in Mission

An invitation to participate and journey together as pilgrims and missionary people of God.



Since we are all missionary disciples, how is every baptized person called to participate in the mission of the Church to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with everyone on the Central Coast?



What hinders the baptised in being active in mission?



What areas of mission are we neglecting on the Central Coast?



How does our community support members who serve our local community in various ways?



How does our community help these members to live out their service on the Central Coast in a missionary way?



How is discernment about missionary choices made and by whom?

Recall my experiences

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What am I hearing the group say?

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Gather the fruits to share. Our group response is....

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Dialogue with Others

Dialogue requires perseverance and patience to enable mutual understanding



To what extent do diverse peoples in our community on the Central Coast come together in dialogue?



What are the places and means to dialogue within our community?



How do we promote collaboration with religious communities, lay associations and movements, schools, CatholicCare, neighbouring dioceses, etc., in faithfulness to our mission?



What do we share and how do we journey together?



What particular issues in our community and the Central Coast community do we need to pay more attention to?



What experiences of dialogue and collaboration do we have with believers of other religions and with those who have no religious affiliation?



How might we dialogue with and learn from other sectors of the Central Coast: the spheres of politics, economics, culture, civil society, and people who live in poverty?

Recall my experiences

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What am I hearing the group say?

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Gather the fruits to share. Our group response is....

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Moving Forward

Allows for participation in mission, formation for all, and opportunities to engage in dialogue.



What methods do we use in decision making to enable our community group to move forward?



How does our community form people to be more capable of “walking together,” listening to one another, participating in mission, and engaging in dialogue?



How does our Church community identify its evangelisation objectives and the steps to achieving those objectives?

Recall my experiences

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What am I hearing the group say?

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Gather the fruits to share. Our group response is....

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