

# Listening to One Another

Guided by  
the Holy Spirit



**Pastoral  
Discernment**  
**North Shore**

## Acknowledgement of Country

The Diocese of Broken Bay acknowledges the Darug and Gurringai people as the traditional custodians of this ancient land.

We acknowledge that God has been walking with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, making His Presence known through a continuous living culture over many thousands of years.

We pray and give thanks for these ancient peoples who have enriched and sustained our continent over all that time. We praise God for the people who nurtured the land that we call home.

*"... each person in the choir sings while listening to the other voices and in relation to the harmony of the whole."*

POPE FRANCIS January 2022

Sydney, NSW, Australia.  
Celebrating the world's oldest living culture.



## Most Rev Anthony Randazzo

Bishop of Broken Bay

I extend the invitation to the People of God in the North Shore Deanery, offering you the opportunity to participate in the pastoral discernment process. This is an invitation for everyone in the region to engage in conversation to discern the particular needs of the community on the North Shore.

Pope Francis has called upon the Church to embrace synodality, which involves journeying together as a fundamental way of being. Synodality emphasises listening, dialogue, and discernment. This pastoral discernment in the North Shore Deanery is an invitation to walk together, listen deeply to one another, and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our collective discernment. Every voice is an essential part of this shared journey, and I invite you to participate.



## Patti Beattie

Head of Pastoral Discernment and Accompaniment Broken Bay

The Pastoral Discernment North Shore project is an exciting opportunity for all people of the North Shore to participate. The project will involve both listening and dialogue and will provide opportunities to share wisdom, experiences, and insights. This invitation to participate in our regional Discernment provides structures and processes, that allow for a shared discernment about our Mission to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world.

I look forward to your participation, as we discern the way forward together, the results of which will bear fruits for generations to come.

Speak with your Parish Priest, School Principal or community leader about engaging in this exciting initiative.

For further information and regular updates visit:

[www.bbcatholic.org.au/PDNS](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/PDNS)

or email Patti:

[PDNS@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:PDNS@bbcatholic.org.au)

## Project Aim

The Project aims to understand the unique challenges and opportunities distinct to the North Shore Deanery in order to develop a Pastoral Mission that enables all in the community the opportunity to participate more fully in the Mission of Jesus Christ.

## Project Objectives

### ONE

To identify strategies, tools, and resources that will support each person's Baptismal call to fulfill their mission of proclaiming the Good News to all.

### TWO

To develop more effective strategies for mission, by knowing and understanding the people, circumstances, and opportunities that will effectively allow the implementation of Bishop Anthony's Pastoral Priorities.

### THREE

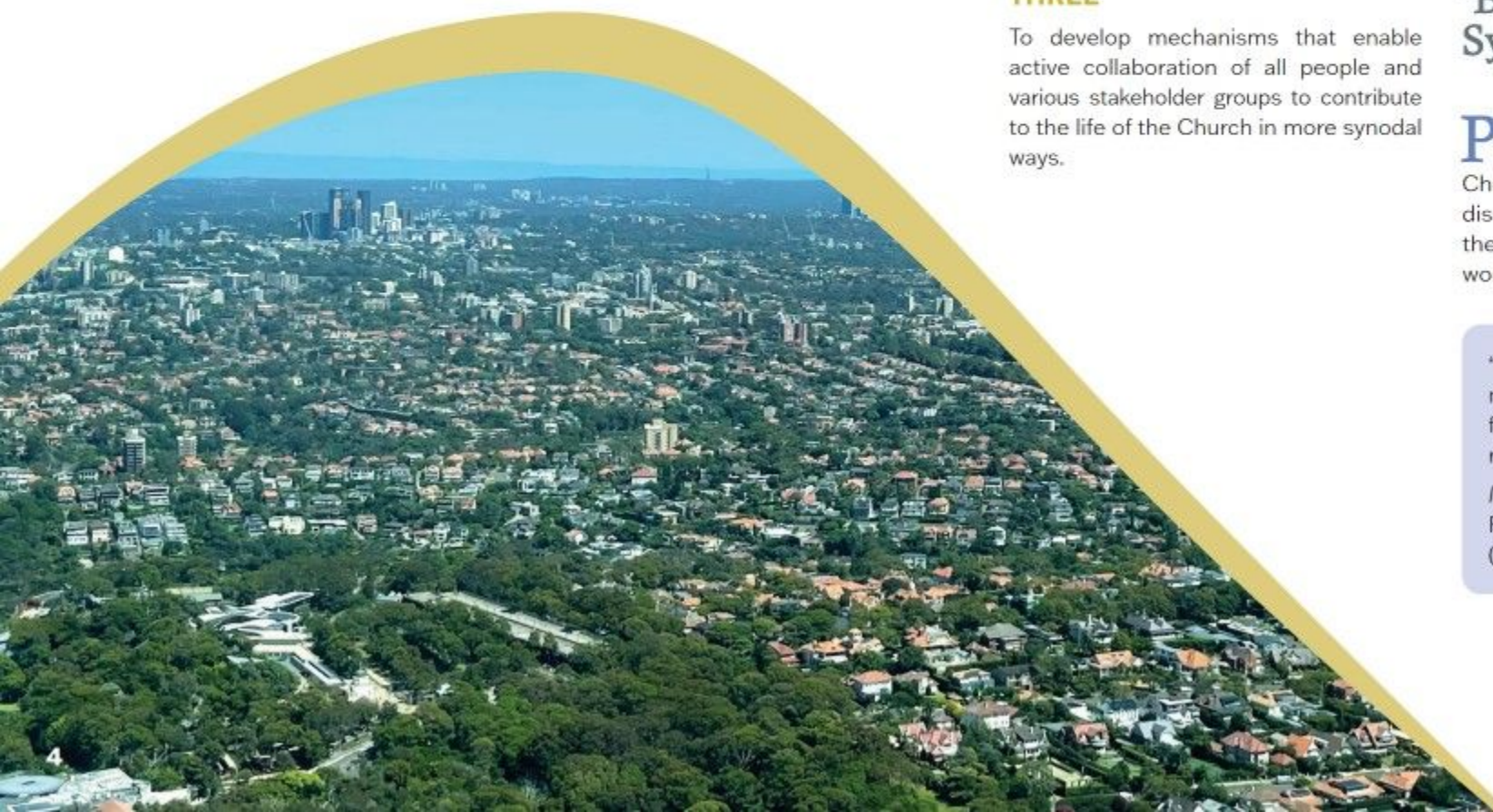
To develop mechanisms that enable active collaboration of all people and various stakeholder groups to contribute to the life of the Church in more synodal ways.

## What does it mean to 'Become a more Synodal Church?'

Pope Francis has called us to reflect upon what it means to be a Synodal Church, "walking together" in a shared discernment about our mission to Bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world.

"Growing as missionary disciples means answering Jesus' call to follow Him, responding to the gift we received when we were baptised".

*Instrumentum Laboris*  
For the Second Session  
(page ii October 2024)



**PHASE ONE**

**Project Development**

**PHASE TWO**

**Data Informed Social Profile**

**June - September Social Profile**

Gathering with relevant stakeholders to gain an understanding of the specific needs, unique challenges and opportunities distinct to the North Shore.

**15 August - 11am & 7pm Briefing Circles**

An online gathering providing the North Shore community the opportunity to come together to learn about the project, ask questions and share their hopes.

**23 August A Synodal Church with Mr Andrew Spiteri**

**12 September Commencing at 3pm Consultation Facilitator Formation**

Learn of the consultation methodology and resources to assist local consultation.

**Consultation Facilitator Formation**

**PHASE THREE**

**Community Engagement**

**20 September Community Forum**

An in-person gathering to hear what the data is saying, learn of the guiding themes and questions for consultation, and hear of the methodology that will be used to guide community listening and dialogue conversations.

**Local Consultation Commences**

Community leaders invite their community to participate in local consultation forums.

**21 September Submissions Open**

Local community consultation, including listening and dialogue forums, commence at the service of shaping a Pastoral Discernment Submission. This will be considered by Bishop Anthony.

**Community Discernment**

**Pastoral Discernment**

**12 November Submissions Close**

**7 December**

**Conversation Forum**

All in the community are invited to attend an in-person gathering to discover the themes that are beginning to emerge through local listening and dialogue sessions. This gathering will provide opportunity for further consultation.

**Conversation Forum**

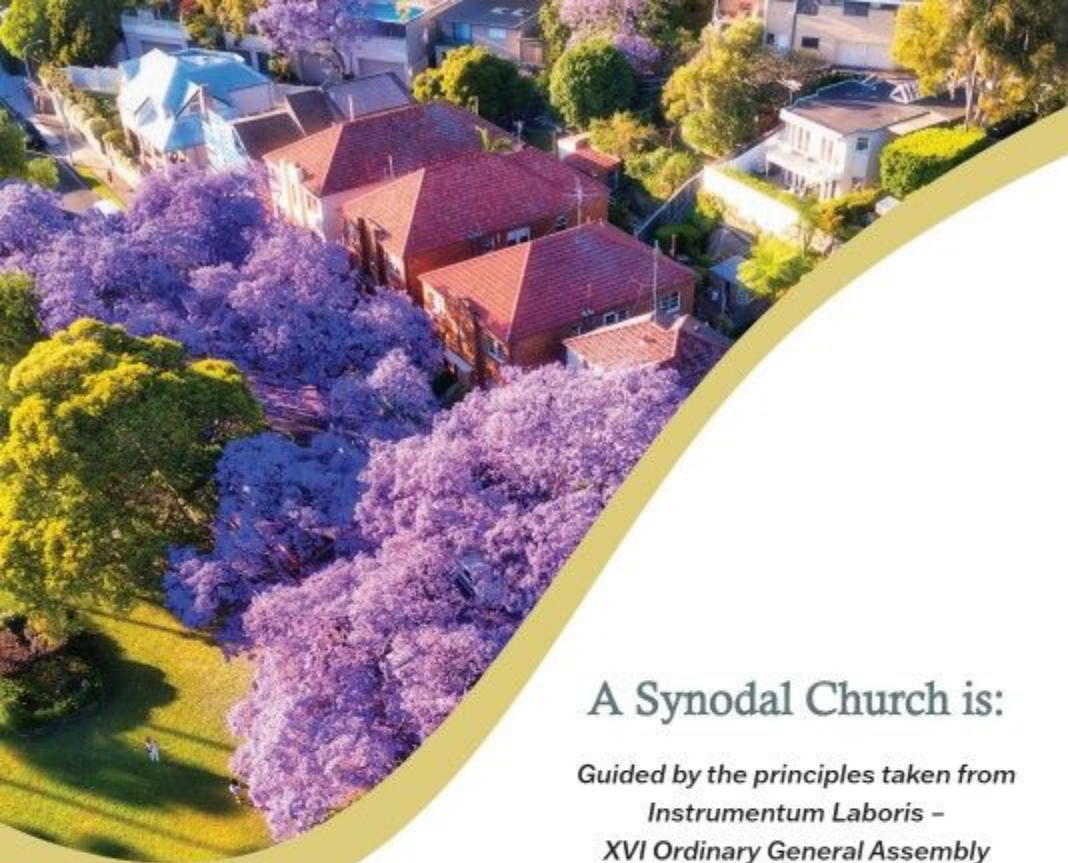
**PHASE FOUR**

**Pastoral Letter**

**Early 2025**

A Pastoral Letter from Bishop Anthony Randazzo to the community of the North Shore of the Diocese of Broken Bay outlining our way forward.

**Pastoral Discernment North Shore 2024 TIMELINE**



## A Synodal Church is:

*Guided by the principles taken from  
Instrumentum Laboris –  
XVI Ordinary General Assembly  
of the Synod of Bishops:*

- ❖ A listening Church.
- ❖ A Church that is alert to the signs of the times, desires to be humble, knows that it must ask forgiveness, and has much to learn.
- ❖ A Church of encounter and dialogue.
- ❖ A Church that is also increasingly synodal in its institutions, structures, and procedures.

- ❖ A Church that is called to practice the culture of encounter and dialogue with the believers of other religions and with the cultures and societies in which it is embedded, but above all among the many differences that run through the Church itself.
- ❖ A Church that promotes the passage from "I" to "we".
- ❖ A Church that is open, welcoming, and embraces all.
- ❖ A Church that imitates Christ by the way He lived out the relationship between love and truth.
- ❖ A Church that manages tensions without being crushed by them, experiencing them as a drive to deepen how communion, mission, and participation are lived and understood.
- ❖ A Church that walks together as pilgrim people of God brings us into contact with the healthy restlessness of incompleteness, as we are faced with the inexhaustible and holy mystery of God and an openness to surprise.
- ❖ A Church of discernment.

## Become Involved

The project involves a sustained and prayerful study of the various factors that give the region of the North Shore its unique character, including:

- **Demographic trends**
- **Social and economic issues**
- **Parish trends of affiliation and participation**

The community is invited to participate in the consultation process beginning with briefing circles to open conversation pathways.

Community groups are invited to consider ways to invite all in the community to participate in the local listening and dialogue consultation forums, including the voices of our young people and those on the periphery.

Each of our local community groups will be invited to develop a pastoral discernment submission.

The submissions will be collated, and emerging themes will then be presented for further consultation at a Conversation Forum gathering.

A Pastoral Letter from Bishop Anthony Randazzo to the community of the North Shore and the Diocese of Broken Bay will be distributed early 2025.



## As we journey forward together, we pray

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,  
make Yourself at home in our hearts;  
Teach us the way we must go and how we  
are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;  
do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance  
lead us down the wrong path  
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity  
so that we may journey forward together  
and not stray from the way of truth  
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,  
who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the  
Son, forever and ever.

**Amen.**

*“Being Synodal is the way of being Church today according to the will of God, in a dynamic of discerning and listening together to the voice of the Holy Spirit.”*

POPE FRANCIS February 2022



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DIOCESE OF  
BROKEN BAY

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