

# Convocation of Catholics by ZOOM

## The Synod on Synodality: Why we should care.

The Church is now at a 'kairos' moment regarding its future direction as proposals are being developed across the seven continental regions of the world. These will form the basis for the *Instrumentum Laboris* (Working Document) for the formal Synod gathering in October 2023. The success of the *Synod on Synodality* is crucial for our Church. This Convocation is synodal in its inclusion of the faithful.

SYNODALITY is a Church word for inclusive leadership, listening to the sense of faith of the faithful. We must take every opportunity to contribute to this process of discernment. Everyone has a stake in the future of our Church.

The *Synod on Synodality* is an opportunity for much-needed change to the Catholic Church's culture, leadership and governance structures. The bishops must listen to the people of the Church and open their minds to the cultural and structural renewal urgently needed to rescue it from irrelevance.

**Renewal must include a focus on:** the role and status of women, acceptance of the spirituality of First Nations people, inclusion of all without discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, gender, marriage, race or relationships, clericalism and the harm done by the sexual abuse of children and vulnerable adults, synodality and the inclusive use of authority.

Our intent is to uncover ways forward for the people of God and the hierarchy to shape the mission of the Church and to play our part in the global movement towards renewal.

We look forward to seeing you at 7.30pm (AEDT) on Thursday 2 February. Our expert panel will outline the real issues facing our Church.

Be blessed.

Eleanor Flynn and Peter Johnstone

Co-Conveners

Australasian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform