



ARCHBISHOP OF PRETORIA

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To: All Parish Priests, Deacons, Religious, Parish Pastoral Councils, and the Faithful of the Archdiocese

Re: Implementation Phase of the Synod on Synodality in our Parishes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the Lord.

Following the publication of the *Final Document of the Synod on Synodality* and the document *Pathways for the Implementation Phase*, the Church throughout the world has now entered the Implementation Phase of the Synod (2025–2028). During this time, Dioceses and Parishes are invited to place synodality more firmly within the daily life and mission of the Church.

In the Archdiocese of Pretoria, we began this journey with the Launch of the Implementation Phase on Sunday 15 February 2026 and the ongoing Deanery Formation Workshops for Parish Synodal Teams and newly elected office-bearers of the Parish Pastoral Councils in all Parishes.

I hereby encourage every parish to take simple but meaningful steps that will help us grow as a more synodal Church. These include:

- Praying regularly for the Synod and for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- Creating opportunities for parishioners to listen to one another in a spirit of faith and respect.
- Using the method of *Conversation in the Spirit* in meetings and parish gatherings.
- Reflecting together on how decisions are made and how participation can be strengthened.

Synodality strengthens leadership in the Church and helps us to serve the mission of Christ more effectively. And so, in this process:

- The Parish Priest remains the pastoral leader of the Parish and accompanies the synodal journey of the community.
- The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) plays a vital role in helping to discern pastoral priorities together with the Parish Priest.
- All the Baptised share responsibility for the life and mission of the Church and are invited to participate in this journey.

All parishes will receive formation materials and guidance to assist them in beginning this process. I encourage every parish community to approach this time with openness, prayer, and a willingness to listen to one another.

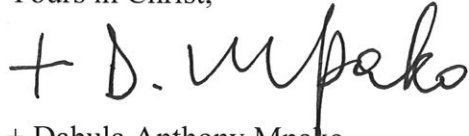
Synodality is not simply a programme or a project. It is a way of being Church—walking together, discerning together, and responding together to the call of the Gospel.

I ask that, to entrust this journey to the Holy Spirit who leads and renews the Church, from now until the end of 2026, the given *Prayer for the Synod* be recited on Sundays at the end of the Prayers of the Faithful.

May our parishes become places where all feel welcomed, where voices are heard, and where the mission of Christ continues to grow.

With gratitude for your faith and commitment to the life of the Church, I remain

Yours in Christ,



+ Dabula Anthony Mpako
Archbishop of Pretoria

