



*We proclaim a crucified Christ*

1Cor12:3

**HIS GRACE  
MOST REVEREND PETER ANDREW COMENSOLI  
By the Grace of God and the Favour of the Holy See  
ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE**

**DECREE OF CONVOCATION  
SYNOD OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE – 2026**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Guided by the Holy Spirit and in fidelity to the journey of synodality embraced by the universal Church and our local Church in Australia, I, Peter Andrew Comensoli by the grace of God and the favour of the Holy See, Archbishop of Melbourne, do hereby convoke **a Synod of the Archdiocese of Melbourne to be celebrated in the year of our Lord 2026.**

This Synod is called in response to the invitation of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia, particularly, “Decree Seven, At the Service of Communion, Participation and Mission”, which affirms:

*“Within five years following the closing session of the Plenary Council... each Diocese conduct a Diocesan Synod and every ten years thereafter.”*

In accordance with Canons 460–468 of the Code of Canon Law and having consulted the Presbyteral Council (Council of Priests), I have judged that the time is now appropriate for our Archdiocese to hold our Synod for the good of the whole diocesan community.

**I. Purpose and Vision**

Our Synod will be a moment of deep ecclesial discernment: a time to listen to the Holy Spirit and one another, to be renewed in missionary discipleship, and to chart pathways forward as a community of faith.

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Archbishop of Melbourne

Rooted in the Archdiocese's vision and strategic priorities, the Synod will reflect our collective commitment to:

**Young Discipleship  
Missionary Leadership, and  
Formation and Participation**

These will be explored under the guiding movements to *encounter, engage, and embark*, shaping the Church we are called to be today.

**2. Timeline and Structure**

The Synod process will unfold throughout 2026, with initial local gatherings and consultations in the first half of the year, culminating in the Final Synod Assembly across 4, 5 and 6 December 2026.

It will involve broad participation from clergy, religious, and laity across parishes, schools, agencies, and communities, reflecting the synodal character of communion, participation, and mission, and in keeping with the canonical requirements of representation.

**3. Leadership and Coordination**

To lead this important undertaking, I have appointed **Most Reverend Rene Ramirez RCJ**, Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne Northern Region, as the Synod Commission Lead.

I am also pleased to announce the appointment of **Ms Cathy Jenkins** as Synod Coordinator who will work closely with Bishop Ramirez and the Synod Commission. Together, they will:

- Establish a Synod Commission;
- Facilitate the development of the Synodal Directory and the necessary documents;
- Coordinate the engagement, consultation, and formation processes;
- Facilitate communication and discernment across the Archdiocese.

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Archbishop of Melbourne

**4. Invitation to Prayer and Participation**

This Synod marks a significant moment in the life of our Archdiocese. I invite each of you to journey with us – to listen, to speak, to discern, and to walk together in hope.

I earnestly request the prayers and support of all the faithful for this synodal journey. May our Synod be a time of spiritual renewal and missionary conversion for the Archdiocese of Melbourne. May our National Patrons - Our Lady Help of Christians and St Mary of the Cross McKillop, and Saint Patrick, Patron of the Archdiocese of Melbourne intercede for us.

**5. Promulgation**

This **Decree of Convocation** takes effect on the eighth day of March in the Year of **Our Lord 2026**, the date on which it is signed.

In accordance with **Canon 8 §2**, I direct that this Decree be promulgated throughout the Archdiocese by its publication in parishes and Archdiocesan communities, and that the convocation of the Synod be brought to the attention of the faithful at Masses celebrated on **Saturday evening, 7 March 2026, and Sunday, 8 March 2026** in accordance with my Pastoral Letter of 7-8 March 2026.

I order that copies of this Decree be carefully preserved in the Archives of the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

Given at St Patrick’s Cathedral East Melbourne on this eighth of the month of March in the year of Our Lord, 2026.

Most Reverend Peter A Comensoli  
Archbishop of Melbourne



.....Notary