

## **DIOCESAN SYNOD: FIRST CONSULTATION**

Dear Parishioner

In February, I announced that we would have a Diocesan Synod on the first weekend in June 2019. Its purpose is to discern what the Lord wants of us as a Diocese into the future. The Synod will be the final step in a consultation of all Catholics across our Diocese which begins on the last weekend of July 2018. My hope is that each one of you will participate in this consultation.

From our baptisms, Christ is present in each of us. Through the Spirit who stirs us in our hearts, he seeks to guide us.

The first stage in the consultation will seek to discern what should be the focus of the Synod and is simultaneously the first consultation step for the Plenary Council in 2020. The second stage, which begins in mid-September, seeks to hear all that Catholics wish to say about the focus.

The purpose of this notice is to invite you to reflect prayerfully before the last weekend of this month on the question:

***What do you think Jesus is asking of us in Australia at this time?***

In July, you will be asked to give your own answer to this question. Two weeks later, you will be asked to answer the same question from the perspective of other Catholics you speak to who are no longer connected with the Church.

Please participate in these consultations, as the insights of each of us are part of the whole the Lord will lead us to see.

God Bless,

Bishop Gerard J Holohan