



**St. Christopher's &  
Holy Saviour Parish**  
**Assembly**  
**in Preparation for the**  
**Melbourne Archdiocesan**  
**Synod 2026**

**Synod Theme**

**Young Discipleship**  
**Missionary Leadership**  
**Formation & Participation**  
**Listening, Praying, Missionary**  
**and Welcoming Parishes**  
**- Alive in Faith and Service -**



Dear Parish Family,

In December 2025, Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli announced that the Archdiocese of Melbourne will hold a Diocesan Synod in 2026. This is a special gathering of the whole local Church to pray, listen, discern, and decide how we can be more faithful missionary disciples in our city and suburbs.

Our Partnered Parishes of St Christopher's and Holy Saviour will hold a Parish Assembly as our contribution to this important journey sometime in the month of October 2026. The Synod focuses on three themes that matter deeply to us: Young Discipleship, Missionary Leadership, and Formation and Participation.

We invite every parishioner — young and old, new and long-time — to share your hopes, dreams, and ideas for the future of our parishes. Your voice is important.

Together, let us open our hearts to the Holy Spirit so that our parishes may become ever more vibrant centers of faith, welcome, and mission.

Fr. Jacob Alvares, SAC.

## **PURPOSE OF THE PARISH ASSEMBLY:**

We gather as a parish family to listen to the Holy Spirit and to one another in preparation for the Melbourne Archdiocesan Synod 2026.

## **WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE:**

- Renew our Parish Vision and Mission.
- Rediscover our identity as a missionary community.
- Move from “maintenance” to mission.
- Encourage every parishioner to see themselves as disciples of Christ.

*“True participation in the synod is not about speaking, but about listening with the heart - allowing every voice to be a thread in the tapestry of Church’s journey.”*

*(Pope Francis Teaching on “Synodality-2021)*

## **WHAT WE WILL EXPLORE TOGETHER:**

The Assembly will focus on the Synod’s three key themes and our Parish pastoral areas:

- Worship and Spiritual Life.
- Evangelization and Mission.
- Formation and Faith Education of Young People and Families.
- Community and Fellowship.
- Service and Outreach.
- Leadership and Participation.

## **CONSULTATION PROCESS:**

### **Broad, Inclusive, and Prayerful.**

Everyone is invited — active parishioners, occasional attendees, youth, families, elderly, cultural communities, and other local churches.

*“Your voice is valued here.”*

## **WHAT WILL COME FROM THIS?**

- Clear Parish Identity and Vision.
- Identify major needs and pastoral priorities.
- Ways to increase participation.
- Prepare a ‘SMART’ Pastoral Plan for the next 3 years.  
(‘SMART’=*Strategic, Measurable Achievable, Realistic and Timebound*)

## **The Plan will focus on Three Key Points:**

1. Listening to the Spirit’s voice and renewing our parish.
2. Formation and Discipleship — i.e., strengthening our faith and becoming passionate about what we believe.
3. Mission and Outreach — that we are sent forth in Mission to love one another.

## TIMELINE:

- Phase 1: Preparation for Assembly.  
(*Mid-June to end of July*)
- Phase 2: Consultation for the Assembly.  
(*August to mid-September*)
- Phase 3: Discernment. (*October*)
- Phase 4: Parish Assembly.  
(*end of October*)
- Phase 5: Implementation of future plan.

## WHAT THE ASSEMBLY WILL CLARIFY:

- **Our Identity:** What kind of a Parish/es are we called to be?
- **Mission:** What is God asking from us now?
- **Priorities:** What must we focus on first?
- **Challenges:** What is preventing our growth?
- **Strengths:** What gifts already exist in the Parish?
- **Leadership Needs:** Which of our ministries and leaders need development?
- **Future Directions:** What concrete steps will renew our parish life?

## FINAL VISION:

**The ultimate goal of this Parish Assembly is not merely to produce documents, but to create a Church that is:**

- Welcoming
- Listening,
- Praying,
- Missionary, &
- Parish filled with faith and service.

*Let us Journey together!*

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact the Parish Office or Steering Committee for more information.



**Come Holy Spirit,  
Pour out your gifts as we prepare  
for this parish assembly and  
enkindle in us your ardent spirit of  
love.**

COME HOLY SPIRIT



## **Prayer for the Synod Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus**

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 together to eternal  
life 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.



## **CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES**

*About us:*

We are Missionary Parishes of  
Intentional Disciples, passionate  
about being Christ to all, inspired to  
grow in Faith and Love in caring  
for one another, through our  
witness of God's love in action.

### **CONTACT US:**

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