



## ***Connecting in Jesus - Synod 19***

***Archbishop Peter Chong's***

***Pastoral Letter 20.6.19***

*When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim. Acts 2:1-4*

Pentecost, the resurrection and ascension of Jesus all point to the one and the same event that is the resurrection of Jesus from the dead but more importantly how the risen Jesus now lives on in the lives of the disciples and the early Christian community. Christianity was born out of Jesus' disciples' experience of the Risen Jesus. Jesus' life, teachings, miracles, suffering, death and risen Spirit gave new meaning and hope to the disciples and early Christians in the midst of persecution. They experienced Jesus as the Christ, the anointed one, the messiah, and Son of God. In Jesus they found life that was worth living and dying for. Hence, Easter is not only about the dead body of Jesus coming back to life, rather it was more about how the disciples took on the spirit, teachings and principles of Jesus. The Risen Jesus reconnected the shattered dreams of the disciples. Easter-Pentecost charged the disciples with a mission for the whole world. In other words, Jesus' mission gave birth to the Church. Jesus who is God's revelation had a mission, namely the reign of God. In fact, Jesus' mission is God's mission. "Another way of saying all this is that God is mission."<sup>1</sup> God's mission gave birth to Church. It is not that the Church has a mission, but rather that God has a mission. "Mission precedes the Church."<sup>2</sup> If God is missionary then the Church must be missionary. God's mission began to have a Church. It is for this reason, that the Vatican II's document on the Mission Activity of the Church states: "The pilgrim Church is missionary by her very nature, since it is from the mission of the Son and the mission of the Holy Spirit that she draws

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<sup>1</sup> Stephen B. Bevans and Roger P. Schroeder, *The Prophetic Dialogue: Reflections of Christian Mission Today*, (Orbis Books, New York 2011), 10-13.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*; 15

her origin, in accordance with the decree of God the Father”. The Church has continued God’s mission for the last 2000 years.

After four years into my episcopal ministry I discerned that it was time for the Church in the Archdiocese of Suva to renew and strengthen its commitment to God’s mission. I identified the following needs:

1. To re-define the Church’s mission through a diocesan pastoral plan,
2. To foster unity in the Church’s mission,
3. To promote good leadership in the Church’s mission through sound diocesan policies and procedures,
4. To promote God’s mission through effective catechesis programs on the sacraments, liturgy, and Church teachings
5. To connect the Church’s mission to social, economic, political, environmental and moral issues in Fiji.

Hence, on the Feast of Pentecost 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018, after consulting the Council of Priests, I issued a decree for the convocation of the Archdiocese of Suva Synod.<sup>3</sup>

## **A Synod**

A diocesan synod is a group of selected priests and other members of the Christian faithful of the diocese who offer assistance to the diocesan bishop for the good of the whole diocesan community.<sup>4</sup> The Synod offered me as your Bishop the opportunity to call on priests, religious and laity and to listen to them and invite them to assist me in building the Kingdom of God in the Archdiocese of Suva. The Synod will guide the Archdiocese of Suva to be faithful to her sources of faith, namely the Scriptures and the Church’s Tradition while at the same time be relevant to the challenges, issues and problems of the Fijian context. The Synodal Year was also a time for a spiritual awakening, catechesis, renewing the faithful on the mind of the Church, and prayer. The Synod Sessions gave me a graced time to listen to people and the Holy Spirit, discernment and planning for the future direction of the Archdiocese of Suva. To help facilitate the synodal process I established the Preparatory Commission on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2016 to design, organize, and facilitate the participation of the entire diocese in the synodal

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<sup>3</sup> Can. 461 §1. A synod is to be celebrated in individual particular churches when circumstances suggest it in the judgment of the diocesan bishop *after* he has heard the presbyteral council.

<sup>4</sup> Can. 460

process.<sup>5</sup> (see Appendix 1) I also established the Consultative, Catechetical and Liturgy Commissions (see appendix 5) who were responsible for the key phases of the synod, namely the catechetical, the consultative and spiritual.

### **Consultative Phase**

The Consultative Commission was tasked to conduct a survey to gather peoples' needs, aspirations, and opinions regarding the Church. They formulated the survey questions and analysed them. (see Appendix 6) The synod survey questions were also made available online through the Archdiocese of Suva's Facebook page. Around 1000 questionnaire responses were received from the survey. The responses were analysed using *nVivo*<sup>6</sup>. Some survey responses arrived after the analysis had been done. The Consultative Commission also carried out a survey with about 30 focus groups. It also arranged one on one interview's with 10 carefully selected experts. The synod seminars, focus group meetings also provided other avenues for collecting people's opinions. Altogether the Synod Office received around 4,000 responses and interventions. Fr. Frank Hoare meticulously synthesized sixteen pages of interventions. The Preparatory Commission grouped these responses into the following seven key themes:

1. Church Leadership and Governance
2. Church and Sacramental Life
3. Church and Society
4. Family Life
5. Youth
6. Education
7. Ecology

The seven themes formed the agenda of the synod. I am grateful to the experts who generously offered their knowledge and experience to write the working papers on the seven themes. These papers were the working documents for the Synod Sessions. (see appendix 3 for the list of experts)

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<sup>5</sup> It is the task of the preparatory commission to assist the Bishop especially in matters pertaining to the organization and preparation of the Synod. The preparatory commission also helps the Bishop in drawing up the synodal Directory, in his determining those questions to be proposed for synodal deliberation, as well as in the designation of the synodal members. The diocesan Bishop, or his delegate in the event of being unable to do so, presides over the meetings of the preparatory commission. (*Instruction on Diocesan Synods Part III, B, 1.*)

<sup>6</sup> A software for data interpretation and synthesis.

## **Catechetical Phase**

The Instructions on Diocesan Synods states that catechesis is an important component of a synod. “The celebration of the Synod affords the Bishop a privileged opportunity for the formation of the faithful. It leads to a well-articulated catechesis of the faithful with regard to the mystery of the Church and the participation of all the faithful in her mission. Such catechesis is carried out in the light of the teaching of the Church's Magisterium and particularly that of the Second Vatican Council.”<sup>7</sup> I selected the following catechetical topics to renew and update the faithful.

1. Historical Overview of the Development of Theology and Church from Vatican II to 2018.
2. Ecclesiology in the Archdiocese of Suva in light of Jesus’s mission
3. The Historical Jesus
4. *Missio Dei* (Mission of God)
5. Reading the signs of time and Catholic Social Teachings
6. The Pastoral Circle
7. Globalisation
8. Care for the Environment and Climate Change
9. *Laudato Si* and Indigenous Spirituality
10. The Church’s Response to Domestic Violence and Suicide
11. Matrimonial Spirituality
12. Men’s and Women’s spirituality
13. The Prophetic Voice
14. Towards a new vision of church in Fiji

The Catechetical Team selected the topics and added content to suit the audience. (see appendix 4 for Catechetical Team) The Synod Seminars were conducted in the following focus groups: Parish leaders in the three vicariates, Clergy and Religious, Catechists, Teachers, Youths in the three vicariates, men and women. The Catechetical Team conducted thirteen synod seminars where 1,584 people participated.

## **The Synod Members**

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<sup>7</sup> Instruction on Diocesan Synods.

In accord with Instruction for Diocesan Synods I appointed 187 synod members and requested them to attend the Formation for Synod members on 8-9<sup>th</sup> February 2019. The formation informed the Synod Members on the nature and methodology of the Synod Sessions as well as acquainting them with the Synod Agenda, namely the seven synod themes. In other words, the formation was a preview of the Synod Sessions.

### **The Synod Session Preparation**

The Synod Session Team, headed by Fr. Arthur Leger SJ, began preparations for the Synod Session. (see appendix 7 for Synod Session program) They developed twenty-eight interventions around the seven synodal themes. The Synod Members were asked to consult their communities on other interventions they wished to pass on for consideration at the Synod Sessions. The Synod Team also conducted a final consultation with all priests and parish leaders in the three vicariates. The Synod Team presented the seven themes and twenty-eight interventions in Synod mock sessions. This was another opportunity for the people to propose interventions for the synod.<sup>8</sup> Finally, the Synod Team re-wrote the seven draft working papers in the format of a synopsis. The synopsis papers presented each of the seven synod themes in about 400 words which included the social context, the people's experience, the key issues, a theological reflection and recommendation.

### **The Synod Session**

The Synod Sessions took place at the Novotel Convention Center, Lami on 7-10<sup>th</sup> June, 2019. 180 Synod Members attended the Synod Sessions (See appendix 7 for list of Synod Members). I observed a vibrant synergy among the Synod Members as they participated in the Synod Sessions. The synod members were very punctual. This was a testimony of their commitment to the Synod Sessions. The readers of the seven synopsis papers and presenters of the interventions read with clarity, conviction and urgency. There were four observers, Rev. James Bhagwan (General Secretary of the Pacific Conference of Churches), Rev. Iliesa Naivalu (General Secretary of the Fiji Council of Churches), Rev. Tevita Nawadra (President of the Fiji Council of Churches), Mr. Bhuwan Dutt (Patron of the Arya Pratadinidhi Sabha of Fiji), and

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<sup>8</sup> The synodal sessions should be arranged over a period of time so as to permit sufficient time to study the questions raised during the sessions, as well as to make interventions during the discussions. (*Instruction on Diocesan Synods Part IV, 1*)

Caroline Rokoua (Brisbane Fiji Catholic community).<sup>9</sup> The observers placed the Synod Sessions on an ecumenical and interreligious framework as well as offering an outsider's view. One could feel a vibrant pulse beating in the Synod Sessions; whether it was during the group discussions, listening, meal times and the *talanoa* sessions around the basins of yaqona, the energy was present. The Synod definitely connected us in Jesus. The Synod was truly a journey together with Jesus and "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us? (Luke 24:32)"

For me, as Archbishop, the Synod Session was a unique experience of listening to the people and the Holy Spirit. I was inspired and impressed with how the synopsis papers and interventions were presented. The readers communicated the minds of the people to me with clarity, conviction, and urgency. The Synod Sessions clearly expressed the people's communion in my episcopal ministry. The people clearly stated that they want to help me govern and lead the Church in Fiji. The Synod Sessions were a wonderful experience of God's presence. The Synod Sessions closed will close with the celebration of the Eucharist at the Sacred Heart Cathedral where we connected our work, hopes and dreams with the prayer of Jesus.

### **Synod Celebration**

We must celebrate because, in the words of the late Archbishop Petero Mataca, 'the sleeping giant has woken.' A synod is a time of spiritual awakening. We can celebrate only when we are awake, alive, dreaming and achieving. Our youths are leading us in the celebration. They were instrumental in designing the Synod theme, logo and song. They helped coin the Synod theme, ***Connecting in Jesus!*** The youth synod members challenged the Synod Session with the freshness and boldness of their interventions. They will set the Synod Celebration alight with the Synod Festival on 29<sup>th</sup> June and Synod Procession 30<sup>th</sup> June. The Synod Celebration included the Synod Festival to be led by the youth on 29<sup>th</sup> June and the Synod Eucharist on 30<sup>th</sup> June on the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. May the ***Synod 19*** make us fearless in the mission of Jesus!

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<sup>9</sup> Should the diocesan Bishop deem it opportune, ministers or members of other Christian Churches or ecclesial communities not in full communion with the Catholic Church may be invited to attend the Synod as *observers*. *Instructions of Diocesan Synods Part II.6*

## Post Synod Phase

So, where do we go from here? The Synod Session presented me seven with broad themes that communicate the people's opinion and aspirations for the Archdiocese of Suva. I added one theme, 'to empower the Church's missionary nature'. Mission is at the heart of the Church. God is mission and the Church must be missionary. I have also made a separate proposition for the clergy, bringing the total number of propositions to nine. (see list below) In the synodal declaration that I will sign in the near future, I will accept and endorse the nine propositions as having the highest priority.

### The Titles of the Nine Synodal Propositions

1. God's Mission has a Church
2. Sacramental Life: As Encounter with Christ
3. Clergy: Gifted and Called to Service
4. Church Leadership and Governance at the service of God's Kingdom
5. Church, Society and Integral Human Development
6. Family: Pastoral Care, Vocation and Mission of the Family
7. Education: The Catholic Identity of Catholic Schools
8. Ecology – Care for Our Common Home-*Vanua*
9. Youth: 'You are the **NOW** of GOD' (Pope Francis I)

I will establish a Synod Planning Team to help me develop our Diocesan Pastoral Plan and establish the diocesan pastoral norms and policies. The roles of the Synod Planning Team are:

- i. To evaluate and once again synthesize, what was revealed by the Synod Sessions,
- ii. To review the interventions, group discussion summaries, *talanoa* sessions, review of the actual video account of the Synod members reporting. The review will make us ever vigilant to the voice of the Holy Spirit in the Synod Sessions.
- iii. To develop the diocesan Pastoral Plan by establishing concrete action steps in support of the propositions.

I will also endorse the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, Diocesan Policies on parish governance, Policy and Procedures for Clergy, A Policy of Expectations and Guidelines for Ministry for Minors,

Handbook for Catholic Schools and other norms in the Archdiocese. The Synod Document will become *juridic* norm or a constitution of the Archdiocese of Suva. In other words, the synod declarations will be a diocesan legal document.

### **In Gratitude**

I take a deep breath of relief. We did it! We marvel and the talk goes on and on. But, always humble like our glorious Seven a Side Team – ‘I thank God in whose mission we participate. God is present and working throughout the synodal journey.’ God is great!

I sincerely thank the Vicar General, Fr. Sulio Turagakacivi and the Episcopal Vicars for their support. I thank the Council of Priests for trusting in my discernment on the Synod. There are some people who I wish to thank in a special way:

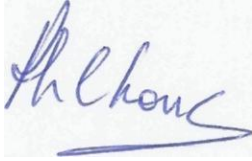
- Fr. Frank Hoare who contributed immensely in the consultative phase – facilitating focus group discussions on the survey and synthesizing the survey responses.
- Fr. Arthur Leger SJ who completed his contract at the East Asian Pastoral Institute in 2018 in a providential time to join the Synod Team. Fr. Leger comes in with leadership skills that contribute immensely to the Synod Sessions.
- Mrs. Margaret Wong and Mrs. Viniana McGoon – the Synod Secretariat: These hardworking ladies came from professional backgrounds gifting the diocese with their wealth of experience, skills and talents.
- The Consultative Commission
- The Catechetical Commission
- The Liturgy Commission
- The Synod Members for their commitment and energy, contributed to the success of the Synod Sessions.
- God called some Synod Team members during the journey; Mr Tui Bilitaki who began the synod song composition and Sr. Genevieve Loo SJC. They have reached their final synod journey in heaven.
- Big Vinaka to our Financial Donors: MISSIO, AID FOR CHURCH IN NEED, Catholic Women’s League, NZ, Australian, and San Francisco Bay Area Catholic Communities.

This list can go on and fill up this paper. I thank the whole Archdiocese of Suva for your participation whether it was through the synod seminars, prayers, singing, catering, processions and Eucharist – thank you very much. From the bottom of my heart, *xiexie – vinaka*, thank



you! I now look forward to your continued support and prayers in the implementation of the Archdiocese of Suva Pastoral Plan.

Yours sincerely in Jesus

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Loy Chong", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

+ Archbishop Peter Loy Chong

## APPENDICES

### **Appendix 1 First Preparatory Commission**

Archbishop Peter Chong, Vicar General - Fr Sulio, Fr Timoci Kolodisi, Fr Frank Hoare, Br Fergus Garrett, Josephine Yee Joy, John Pickering, Elizabeth Reade-Fong, Petero Kubunavanua, Fr Inia Tikolutu, Sr Mariana Tevurega, Anare Tuitoga.

### **Appendix 2 Consultative Commission**

Fr. Frank Hoare, Bro Fergus Garret, Apolonia Tamata, Susan Sela, Aisake Casimira, Alisi Dauurewa, Robert Lingam, Tifane Mausio, Fr. Mikaele Tikoisuva, Tabai Yavala

### **Appendix 3 Expert Teams**

Education: Nemani Drova, Ronald Krishna, Irene YeeChief

Youth: Sylvestor Lingam, Sr Nanise Degei, Mariana Waqa

Ecology: Fr Donato Kivi, Alisi Pulini Vosalevu, Peter Emberson, Teresia Powell

Family: Dr Francis Bingwor-Rika, Dr Luisa Cikamatana Rauto, Mere Fong

Church and Society: Fr George Ting, Fr Joe Tuimavule, Fr Tamati Sefo

Church and Sacrament: Fr Beniamino Kaloudau, Fr Timoci Kolodisi, Fr Ioani Vodosiro, Fr Veremo Dovarua

Church and Governance: Fr Sulio Turagakacivi, Fr Emiliano Lasaqa, Fr Cecil Williams, David Veremo, Isake Komailevuka

### **Appendix 4 Catechetical Commission**

Archbishop Peter Chong, Frs. Arthur Leger, Mika Tikoisuva, Veremo Dovarua,

Ben Salacakau, Sisilia Galuvakadua, Minnie Seeto, Katherine Foi,

### **Appendix 5 Liturgy Commission**

Fr. Timoci Kolodisi, Mere Fong, Salome Emberson, Ramesh Behari, Vosita Williams, Sr Sisilia Sau, Sr. Genevieve Loo SJC (RIP)

## Appendix 6 Survey Questions

1. How can the Church inspire parents to pass on traditional and faith knowledge to their children?
2. How can the Catholic community help families with communication and parenting skills, conflict resolution, and reconciliation?
3. What priority programs for youth should be pursued by parish and Archdiocesan youth commissions?
4. How can the Church encourage social media literacy for young people?
5. How can the Church counteract domestic violence, rape and child abuse?
6. How should the Church (or Churches together) educate its members about good governance?
7. How can the Catholic Church (or Churches together) exercise its moral authority on priority economic and social issues?
8. How can the Catholic Church (or Churches together) be an impartial but prophetic voice for justice for the poor and the exploited earth?
9. What priorities should the Catholic Church have in caring for the environment?
10. How can the Catholic community (or Christian Churches) advocate for a just minimum wage?
11. Who is responsible and how can they educate the people of Fiji about the Church's social teaching, about social analysis and about the pastoral circle?
12. How can the Catholic community continuously critique the materialist values of society?
13. How can the Catholic Church disseminate a relevant and attractive teaching on sexuality?
14. What must the Church do to defend against an aggressive proselytism?
15. What practical plan can the Church implement to improve religious formation in its schools?
16. How can the quality of priestly life and ministry be improved?
17. How can the spiritual growth of Catholics be effected in our Church communities?
18. What are the priorities for the Catholic Church in ecumenism and inter-faith relations?
19. What specific policies should the Catholic Church adopt to counteract the abuse of yaqona and alcohol?
20. How can the Catholic Church do on-going necessary research and evaluation?

## Appendix 7 Synod Sessions Program

### FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2019.

#### Session One

7.00am	Registrations begins
8.00am	Profession of Faith ( <i>Prayer Hall</i> )
8.30am	Opening Address by Archbishop Peter Loy ( <i>Synod Hall</i> )
9.00am	Synod Prayer and Overview of the Synodal Journey - Fr. Arthur Leger
9.30am	Overview of <u>CHURCH AND SACRAMENTAL LIFE</u> - Fr. Arthur Leger
9.30am - 10.30am	Group discussions on Interventions and Comments
10.30am - 11.00am	Comments from Observers
11.15am – 11.30am	Morning Tea
11.30am	Mass: Fr. Sulio Turagakacivi, Choir-Immaculate Conception Parish
12.00noon – 1.00pm	Lunch

#### Session Two

1.15pm	Afternoon Prayer (Synod Song and Prayer)
1.30pm	Overview of <u>FAMILY LIFE</u> - Fr. Arthur Leger
2.00pm - 3.00pm	Group discussions on Interventions and Comments
3.30pm – 4.00pm	Afternoon Tea

#### Session Three

4.00pm	Prayer (Prayer to Mary Mother of God)
4.10pm	Overview of <u>YOUTH</u> - Fr. Arthur Leger
4.30pm - 5.30pm	Group discussions on Interventions and Comments
6.00pm	Comments by Observers
6.30pm	Evening Prayer - Fr. Edward Vakatora
7.00pm	Media Address - Fr. Sulio Turagakacivi
7.00pm – 8.00pm	<i>Talanoa</i> Session

### SATURDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2019.

#### Session Four

8.15am	Morning Prayer from Breviary - Deacon Pio Ravu SM (Synod Hall)
8.30am	Report from Friday - Fr. Arthur
9.00am	Overview of <u>CHURCH AND SOCIETY</u> - Fr. Arthur Leger

9.30am - 10.30am Group discussions on Interventions and Comments  
 10.30am - 11.00am Comments from Observers  
 11.00am Group Photo Shoot (groups – session team, clusters, youth etc.)  
 11.15am – 11.30am Morning Tea  
 11.30am Mass Fr. Timoci Kolodisi Choir - Our Lady of Fatima, Nadera  
 12.00noon – 1.00pm Lunch

### **Session Five**

1.15pm Afternoon Prayer (Synod Song and Prayer)  
 1.30pm Overview of EDUCATION - Fr. Arthur Leger  
 2.00pm - 3.00pm Group discussions on Interventions and Comments  
 3.30pm – 4.00pm Afternoon Tea

### **Session Six**

4.00pm Prayer (Prayer to Mary Mother of God)  
 4.10pm Overview of ECOLOGY - Fr. Arthur Leger  
 4.30pm - 5.30pm Group discussions on Interventions and Comments  
 6.00pm Comments from Observers  
 6.30pm Evening Prayer - Fr. Ioani Vodosiro  
 7.00pm Media Address - Fr. Sulio Turagakacivi  
 7.00pm – 8.00pm *Talanoa* Session

## **SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2019**

### **Session Seven**

8.15am Morning Prayer - Deacon Petero Apenisa  
 8.30am Report from Saturday – Fr. Arthur Leger  
 9.00am Overview of CHURCH LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE - Fr. Arthur Leger  
 9.30am - 10.30am Group discussions on Interventions and Comments  
 10.30am – 11.00am Morning Tea  
 11.30am – 12.00 Comments from Observers  
 12.00noon – 1.00pm Lunch

### **Session Eight**

2.00pm – 2.30pm READING OF DRAFT RESUME

	APPROVAL OF RESUME
2.30pm – 3.00 pm	READING OUT OF RECOMMENDATIONS
3.00pm – 3.30 pm	Afternoon Tea (Substantial)
3.30pm – 5.30 pm	(Instructions) REVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND VOTING (Show of hands by sections) and if there is a close vote on a particular recommendation, then the group may be asked to discuss the issue, with prepared guidelines from the Archbishop. Written report given by each group
6.00pm	The Synod Session Team reviews the processes and documentation There is a presentation of the implementation phase of the Synod
7.00pm	MASS - ARCHBISHOP PETER LOY CHONG at the Cathedral
8.00pm	<i>Veiqaraqaravi ni Vakavinavinaka</i> & Social - St Anne's grounds.

## **Appendix 8 List of Synod Members that attended the Synod Sessions**

### **Ex-Officio members**

**Archbishop:** Peter Chong,

**Vicar General:** Fr. Sulio Turagakacivi

**Episcopal Vicars:** Frs. Mateo Waqa, Cecil Williams, Emiliano Lasaga, Frank Hoare  
Joseva Tuimavule, Rogasiano Raikivi, Ioane Vodosi, Timoci Kolodisi.

**Council of Priests:** Frs. Beniamino Kaloudau, Lui Vunitabua, Ioane Manasa,  
Pacific Regional Seminary Rector: Fr. Simon Mani

**Chairpersons of Diocesan Commissions:** Sr. Mariana Tevurega, Pushpa Arjun, Timothy Brown, Ramesh Behari, Petero Kubunavanua, Waqa and Maria Cavuilati,

### **Parish Council Chairpersons:**

**Central-Eastern Vicariate:** Mere Fong (Immaculate Conception-Lami), Litiana Loabuka (St Joseph the Worker), Sireli Vunibaka (St Vincent de Paul), Dan Burese (St Pius), Anania Senileba (St. Joseph-Nailili), George Rounds (Our Lady of Assumption), Arthur Groom (Sacred Heart Cathedral), Ratu Etuate Karikaritu (Our Lady of Hope), Ratu Vio Kinivuwai

(Holy Spirit), Joe Mebaniyabula (St Don Bosco), Sikeli Marau (Martin de Porres), Joe Lockington (St Teresa-Kadavu), Petero Uluinaceva (Vabea-Kadavu), Julian Cavu (St Agnes), John Tonu (Our Lady of Victories-Rotuma), Paula Bale (Our Lady of Fatima), Lepani Rokoua (Holy Eucharist), Varasiko Saunivalu (St. Peter-Namosi), Petero Mudu (Sacred Heart Levuka), Kalisito Biausese (St. John the Apostle),

**Western Vicariate:** Ledua Niubalavu (Christ the King), Varasiko Nabe (St Teresa-Bemana), Kamueli Nasau (St Peter Chanel), Mika Mataka (Our Lady of Perpetual Help), Samu Komailevuka (St. Michael), Ivan Wong (St Mary), Tito Elo (St Patrick), Poseci Sukanatabua (St Joan of Arc), Farasiko Osea (St Francis Xavier), Joseph Low (Immaculate Heart of Mary),

**Northern Vicariate:** Iosefo Vasakula (Holy Family), Marino Sipiriano (Our Lady of the Rosary), Sakeo Toalevu (St Anne), Viliame Matau (St Andrew), Mikaele Dreweta (Immaculate Conception-Solevu), Kako Tabong (Our Lady of Fatima-Rabi), Mikaele Tawake (Holy Cross)

### **Superiors of Religious Congregations**

Fr. John McEvoy, Fr. Tamati Sefo, Fr. Milikiade Raiyalu, Fr. Filimoni Vosabalavu, Fr. Jonathan Hurrel, Fr. Pselio Tevaga, Bro. Kees Van Der Weert, Bro. Jim Madavana, Mother Nanise Degei, Sr. Lavinia Henry, Sr. Petra Mario, Sr. Lusiana Matai, Sr. Beena

### **Public Associations**

Joseph, Bro. Francis Mavuku, Sr. Sera Heritage

### **Diocesan Centers and Ministries**

Sr. Denise McMahon, Fr. Lewis Henry, Mareta Tovata, Elizabeth Krishna, Fr. Petero Eparama, Berenado Daveta, Fr. George Ting

**Vicariate Clergy Representatives:** Frs. Edward Vakatora, Etuweni Rasiosateki, Silio Naduva

### **Ethnic Community Members**

Indo- Fijian: Sylvester Lingam, Noleen Sarju, Ronald Krishna,  
Rotuman: Pasirio Furivai

Rabi: Takeiti Tawaka, Kaitama Tawaka

Chinese: Michael Yee Joy

Pilipino: Dr Maria Villaruel

Korean: Agnes Chang

Tongan: Bernadette Rounds-Ganilau

Samoan: Leitupo Lafai Sa'e

Part-European: Moira Tulele

**Women:** Adi Vasiti Lovobalavu, Elizabeth Read-Fong, Oripa Liwaiono, Moira Rodan, Ateca Vunibaka, Barbara Edwards, Selina Vererua, Ro Teimumu Kepa

**Lesbian Gay Bisexual, Transgender Questioning and Intersex (GBTQI):** Amasai Jeke, Simione Tuni, Miki Wali

### **Youth**

High School: Chad Manueli

Working: Michelle Baleikancea

USP: Suliano Waqabaca, FNU Aselemo Rawavakacava, UOF Adi Kulaniwai Martha Vaisewa, CCTC Paula Tikoibua

Employed: Pita Waqavonovono, Maura Jessie McGoon

West: Mikaele Tulele, North: Epeli Banicakau, CE: Adriano Bukavulo

**Person with Disabilities:** Noa Din, Veronika Narayan, Asenaca Divuravura

### **Archbishop's Nominee**

Fr. Mikaele Tikoisuva

Deacons Pio Ravu, Viliame Baleikoro, Petero Apenisa

Beni Waqaniyalo, Sulio Bulinadi, Lui Kelevi, Rovereto Balecala, Iowane Navere, Iosefo Saqalala, Solo Wata, Serafina Saukilagi, Benidito Masikau, Sirilo Vosarogoci, Bro. Makario Uluvucu, Luke Nalau, Mikaele Ting, Teresia Ting, Fabiano Bibi,



### **Apostolic Movements and Associations**

Veronika Tabua, Veniana Maria Naiveli, Maria Viani, Monika Ma'afu, Melenia Tuinivanua, Maria Bereso, Kalara Liku, Mauriso and Liti Yavala, Filipino Tuiqali, Bill Mar, Paula Lala, John and Louise Williams, Katarina Naduva, Jim Tamanisokula, Atekina Iowane Daroko, Makelesi Moce Brown, Akeneta Niubalavu, Bernadette Ferei, Williame Tabua, Kositatino Tikomaibolatagane,

### **Experts**

Niko Nawaikula, Josephine Yee Joy, Dr. Apolonia Tamata, Teresia Powell, Jenny Seeto, Joe Ravea, Aisake Casimira, Dr. Rufina Latu, Remesio Rogovakalali, Nemani Drova, Fr. David Arms, Dr. Fancis Bingwor-Rika, Dr Luisa Cikamatana Rauto

### **Observers**

Rev. Iliesa Naivalu, Rev. James Bhagwan, Rev. Tevita Bainivanua, Bhuwan Datt, Caroline Rokoua (Brisbane Catholic Community)

### **Synod Sessions Team**

Fr. Arthur Leger SJ, Deacon Sikelo Qelo, Anare Tuitoga, Marina Konrote, John Pickering, Sisilia Galuvakadua, Mili Nawaikula, Vini McGoon, Margaret Wong, Emiliano Yavala, Atu Luvena, Willie Daurewa, Ronald Sorby, Kerani Misiki, Marika Lewaicei, Salote Kaisuva, Orelia Kava Susu, Nai Tabuarua, Pau Koroi, Losevata Likuivalu, Paula Ravunikaidredre, Andrea Manueli.