



The Catholic Diocese of Ballarat is excited to be joining with the Catholic Theological College to provide formation in Leadership for Synodality in the Diocese of Ballarat through a bursary funded by the Therese D'Orsa Mission Fund.

The idea for this program emerged following the Ballarat Diocesan Assembly at the end of 2024. The Diocesan Assembly Report details the support for building a Synodal Church in this diocese with a prominent outcome of the Assembly being the need to provide formation for synodal leadership.

To do this we wish to invite **you** to be part of this project. This Formation in Synodality Pilot Program for the Diocese we will offer 3 modules/units: Scripture, Synodality and Belief in a Secular Age.

Following is information on the first module:

Together On the Way with the Spirit – First Module Launch (Semester One, 2026)

Commencement & Cohort

- First module begins **February 2026**
- Seeking a cohort of **at least 20 participants by mid-December 2025**

Purpose & Design

- Module serves as both a **pilot** and an **introduction**
- Focus: Together On the Way with the Spirit: through its **biblical foundations**
- Format: Biblical reflection and discernment in the Spirit to form practical application of living out our faith in a synodal Church.

Structure

- **Opening full-day in-person gathering**
 - 📍 Proposed venue: Ss Peter & Paul, Buninyong
 - 🕒 Time: 10:30am – 4:00pm (a Saturday in February yet to be decided)
- **Two online gatherings** during the semester
- **Closing full-day in-person gathering** to conclude the module

Project-Based Formation

- Each participant will undertake a **synodal project**
 - Based in their **faith community, parish, ministry, school, or group**
 - Projects must have **practical application**
 - May align with one of the **eight Diocesan Assembly priorities**
 - participants enrol for **formation or academic credit**

Support & Accompaniment

- Participants will be supported and accompanied throughout the project by a **co-ordinator**
- This person will:
 - **Accompany participants** throughout the semester
 - Provide **encouragement, guidance, and clarity**
 - Be **distinct from module presenters**

Why This Matters

- Designed for those **new to formation or ongoing education**
- Emphasis on **reflection, engagement, and practical impact**

If you are interested in this project, please complete the attached expression of interest form and return to Jane Collins in the Pastoral Ministry Office – jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au