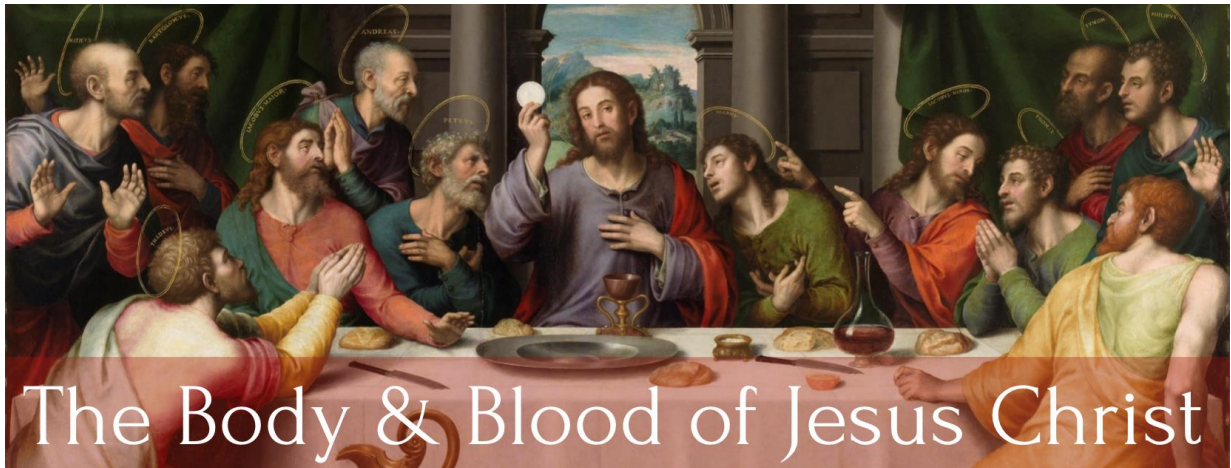


PLENARY, GOVERNANCE & FORMATION  
*SOLEMNITY OF THE BODY & BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST SUNDAY – 19 JUNE 2022*



# The Body & Blood of Jesus Christ

*The Last Supper by Juan de Juanes | public domain*

## ST. JOSEPH'S PRIMARY | PARTICIPATION IN SOCKTOBER MISSION

Congratulations to our parish primary School St Joseph's on its participation in the Socktober Mission program for Catholic Schools.

[\[https://www.socktober.org.au\]](https://www.socktober.org.au)

The Launch is this Monday and St Joseph's Primary school welcomes the new Executive Director of Brisbane Catholic Education, Dr Sally Towns, to the event.

## REMEMBERING PHILIP & HIS REFLECTION ON SAINT MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA



“

The fruit of silence  
is prayer;  
the fruit of prayer  
is faith;  
the fruit of faith  
is love;  
the fruit of love  
is service;  
the fruit of service  
is peace.

SAINT MOTHER TERESA  
OF CALCUTTA

[www.catholicresources.com](http://www.catholicresources.com)

This weekend we remember Philip Phillips who has gone to rest in God's eternal love.

Some will remember a moving reflection he gave a few years ago at weekend Masses about Mother Teresa and his own family.

## FORMATION

This weekend we continue the homilies with a focus on the upcoming motions and statements to be heard at the national Plenary council in early July.

We turn to the issues of formation.

Let us reflect on the formation of the disciples by Jesus.

## FORMATION BY JESUS IN LUKE CHAPTER 9

Jesus called the Apostles together and

*'sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.'*

After instruction from Jesus *They departed and went through the villages, bringing the good news and curing diseases everywhere.*

They returned, and Jesus debriefed them, giving them space to share the stories of their mission. And to be accountable to Jesus and each other.

*'On their return the apostles told Jesus all they had done.*

*He took them with him and withdrew privately to a city called Bethsaida.'*

They had a private de-briefing with Jesus.

Only then did they accompany Jesus once more in his mission.

Today's Gospel continues the story.

They saw how Jesus spoke to the crowds about the Kingdom of God and his healing ministry.

They made practical suggestions to Jesus.

Jesus taught them to be open to the surprises of God in their lives.

The miracle of the loaves and fishes was one such surprise.

We note the blessing of the loaves and fishes.

We note that the leftovers were gathered up.

*'And he said to his disciples, **Make them sit down in groups of about fifty each.**'*

*They did so and made them all sit down.*

*And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd.*

*And all ate and were filled.*

*What was left over was gathered up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.'*



*Church of the Multiplication*

May we not waste the opportunities that God gives us.

We are being formed continually in our relationship with God,

- to be open to the surprises of God,
- to follow wherever Jesus leads us,
- to respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

## PLENARY

In Part Seven of the Motions, we come to the section titled

*At the Service of Communion, Participation, and Mission: Governance*

It has a focus on the **Principle of Subsidiarity** in our Catholic Social Teaching.

In formation, to implement this vital principle, we need to overcome clericalism in the church.

The document reads:

*“The practice of synodality requires the overcoming of “a ‘culture of clericalism’ that promotes privilege and enables abuse of power.”*

*Pope Francis has stressed that “it can prove especially divisive if sacramental power is too closely identified with power in general.”*

*Attending carefully to Pope Francis’ reminder and the principle of subsidiarity, those whose roles involve responsibility for decision-taking need to ensure that decision-making is not confined to those who exercise sacramental power.*

*Those who will be affected by a decision should have the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process and express their view before the decision is taken, to the extent that this is possible and appropriate.*

*As decision-making authority in the Church is most often exercised by men, there should be careful attention to the voices of women when considering all matters, especially those that impact distinctively on them.”*

Subsidiarity in decision-making should be one of the essential parts of Christian formation.

Governance is an essential part of ministry, and formation is needed in how to prepare for governance.

Synods, Archdiocesan Pastoral Councils, Archdiocesan Councils and Commissions, Parish Pastoral Councils and Parish Finance Councils are some of the governance entities.

A new entity is also proposed, titled **National Catholic Synodal Life Roundtable**.

*“THEREFORE, this Plenary Council:*

*a. affirms that governance in the Catholic Church should be exercised in a synodal manner, with the appropriate participation of various bodies.*

*For a diocese, this would mainly involve the participation of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, the Council of Priests, the College of Consultors, the Diocesan Finance Council and, at times, a Diocesan Synod.*

*For a parish, this would mainly involve the participation of the Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Finance Committee;*

*b. recognises and affirms the commitment of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference that “within five years following the closing session of the Plenary Council ... each Diocese conduct a Diocesan Synod and every ten years thereafter” and encourages dioceses and eparchies to begin planning for this after the conclusion of the Plenary Council;*

*c. affirms the continuing work of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and the National Centre for Pastoral Research to develop guidelines and provide resources for the establishing and flourishing of Diocesan Pastoral Councils and other appropriate synodal structures;*

*d. recognises and affirms the many initiatives already undertaken at parish, diocesan and national levels to implement recommendations*

*agreed to in the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference response to 'The Light from the Southern Cross'; and*

*e. commits the Church in Australia to fostering the discernment and synodal leadership envisaged at Vatican II, called for by Pope Francis and experienced in the Plenary Council's First Assembly through the actions proposed below."*

***"Motion:*** *That dioceses and eparchies support parishes to establish and strengthen appropriate synodal structures by developing guidelines and providing resources for the flourishing of Parish Pastoral Councils."*

***"Motion:*** *That representatives from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Catholic Religious Australia and the Association of Ministerial PJPs form a working group to develop and establish a roundtable structure, with the proposed name of the National Catholic Synodal Life Roundtable, to foster and assess the development of synodal leadership across the Church in Australia.*

*The roundtable will bring together representative members of those groups with Diocesan Pastoral Councils and other key national bodies of the Church."*

***"Motion:*** *That the National Centre for Pastoral Research be commissioned to study the implementation of recommendations from The Light from the Southern Cross which has already happened, to identify examples of effective initiatives that have been taken and thus enable further implementation of those recommendations judged helpful and practicable."*

In our Archdiocese of Brisbane, for many years, there have been manuals provided for Parish Pastoral Councils and Parish Finance Councils.

Formation has been a key in parish pastoral councils in particular.

Every meeting begins with prayer and a time of formation.

Thank you to each member of both parish councils, and to all who share their giftedness across the many dimensions of parish life.

Sadly, in the Archdiocese of Brisbane, there are not as many parish pastoral councils as there once were, and there has been no Archdiocesan Pastoral Council for several years.

Some of the **MOTIONS** regarding Formation are:

***"Motion:*** *That each diocese establish or strengthen strategic policies that identify and support ministry and leadership formation. These will:*

*a. acknowledge the generational, cultural and ethnic diversity of the contemporary Church in Australia;*

*b. recognise the changing community profile of many parish and faith communities;*

*c. establish broader consultation, dialogue and representation within local Churches' structures and decision-making processes;*

*d. include strategies for ongoing formation and appropriate forms of mentoring and accompaniment (human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral); and*

*e. consider avenues for financial support through scholarships, sponsorships and grants."*

*“**Motion:** That the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference commission the Australian Catholic Biblical Association and the Australian Catholic Theological Association to liaise with appropriate Catholic and diocesan agencies, institutions and educational providers in order to enhance cross-institutional engagement and development of resources and formation programs.*

*The design of these resources and programs will carefully consider the needs of rural and regional areas and creatively assess the use of available technology in order to improve delivery and accessibility.”*

*“**Motion:** That the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference establish a working group with expertise in formation to develop national Formation for Leadership strategies and guidelines designed for clergy, religious and lay leaders to address the possibilities and challenges of synodal leadership in parishes and diocesan agencies and support the Church’s work of evangelisation.*

*These strategies and guidelines will:*

- a. have a national scope and be adaptable to local circumstances;*
- b. aim to enhance competencies in and commitment to synodal practices, with a focus on building communities that are welcoming to all, with particular attention to those on the margins of society and the Church; and*
- c. identify and promote models of effective engagement with government and civil society.”*

We pray for the grace to live our mission humbly and lovingly and justly.

We pray that we follow Jesus.

#### PLENARY PRAYER

Let us pray the national prayer for the Plenary.

Creating and Redeeming God,  
beneath the Southern Cross and in its light  
you have called together a people for Christ among the many peoples of this land;  
you have made us new in the image of Jesus, your beloved Son,  
and breathed into us the Spirit of sons and daughters of God.

Look on the face of your Church in Australia today:  
see our brokenness and sorrow  
for the crimes of abuse and hardness of heart  
that have wounded so many individuals and families;  
see our hope for the future and longing for your kingdom,  
and give us new hearts – hearts of flesh not of stone –  
that we might burn with your divine love for the world.

Teach us to read the sign of the times in the light of the Gospel,  
with deep listening and patient discernment,  
and send your Spirit to lead us into all truth,  
that the journey of the Fifth Plenary Council may strengthen

the participation and communion of all members of the Church in this land,  
and raise up a living witness to your presence among all peoples and through all  
creation.

Mary, Mother of the Church and Help of Christians, pray for us.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, pray for us.

Let us pray.

Father Gerry

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/061922.cfm>

More information on the Plenary Council is available at:

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au>