



FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCES OF OCEANIA

The Episcopal Conferences of Australia • New Zealand • The Pacific •
Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands

Federation Secretariat 2023-2027 • GPO Box 368, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia
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Non-Bishop Members of XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops

Mr Manuel Beazley, New Zealand

Mr Beazley is Vicar for Maori in the Diocese of Auckland and co-ordinator of the Maori Pastoral Care Plan. He has previously served as a youth minister, as a parish pastoral assistant and facilitating engagement with multi-cultural ministry.

Dr Trudy Dantis, Australia

Dr Dantis is director of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's National Centre for Pastoral Research, which was responsible for the synthesis of the 17,500 submissions to the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia. She was an active member of the Discernment and Writing Group for the Continental Stage in Oceania, including assisting with drafting at the FCBCO Assembly in Suva.

Mr John Lochowiak, Australia

Mr Lochowiak is Chair of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council. He was an active participant in the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia and a key participant in national consultation and discernment processes which provided input to the drafting of the Oceania Response to the Synod.

Fr Denis Nacorda, New Zealand

Fr Denis is parish priest of St Joseph's Parish, Levin, in the Archdiocese of Wellington. His parish used the tools of the Synod on Synodality to set the vision and mission of the parish, which benefitted from this process.

Mrs Kelly Paget, Australia

Mrs Paget is Chancellor of the Diocese of Broken Bay. She was a key leader of Plenary Council as co-chair of the Liturgical Committee, and an active participant in national consultation and discernment process which provided input to the development of the Oceania Response to the Synod.

Sr Mary Angela Perez RSM, Pacific

Sr Mary Angela has extensive leadership and ministry experience in the Mariana Islands. She has taught in Catholic schools and is currently Director of Mission Effectiveness. She has fought for the rights of migrant workers, especially for teachers hired from foreign countries,

ensuring fair and just compensation and decent housing for workers. Sr Mary Angela was a core team member overseeing the participatory phase of Synod on Synodality.

Fr Sijeesh Pullenkunnel, Syro-Malabar Eparchy

Fr Pullenkunnel is Chancellor of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Melbourne. He has a Doctorate in Oriental Canon Law and is a Visiting Professor of Canon Law at the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome. He was a member of the Discernment and Writing Group in Oceania.

Dr Susan Sela, Pacific

Dr Sela works in the University of the South Pacific in Fiji as Director of Technical and Further Education. She is a member of the core group of the Archdiocese of Suva that implemented the Synod on Synodality and was a representative of CEPAC team on the Discernment and Writing Group that prepared the working document for the FCBCO. She co-facilitated the FCBCO Assembly in Fiji.

Ms Grace Wrakia, Papua New Guinea/Solomon Islands

Ms Wrakia works for the De La Salle Brothers in Papua New Guinea in pastoral and teaching roles. She is a single parent and active contributor to her parish. Ms Wrakia contributed to the discernment and writing of the response from the FCBCO to the Continental Stage of the Synod.

Professor Renee Kohler-Ryan, Australia

Professor Kohler-Ryan is head of the School of Philosophy and Theology at the University of Notre Dame Australia. She volunteered to assist with writing tasks as a member of the Discernment and Writing Group for the Continental Stage in Oceania. While her primary expertise is in philosophy, she is respected for her broad understanding of Church teaching and Church life.

[Experts and Facilitators for XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops](#)

Dr Sandie Cornish

Dr Cornish is a practitioner and academic in Catholic Social Teaching. She lectures in the School of Theology at the Australian Catholic University and is a member of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. She was one of the periti for the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia.

Br Ian Cribb SJ

Br Ian is an expert in the spiritual conversation method. He guided the discernment process for the synthesis in Oceania, and for the FCBCO Assembly in Suva. He was a key figure in the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia and has also facilitated retreats for the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

Adjunct Professor Susan Pascoe

Adjunct Professor Pascoe is a member of the Synod's Methodology Commission and of the Taskforce for the Continental Stage. She served as chair of the FCBCO Taskforce for the Continental Stage and of the FCBCO's Discernment and Writing Group and was a contributor to the continental synthesis.

Fr Asaeli Raass SVD

Fr Raass is provincial of the Divine Word Missionaries. He is a Fijian who had been working as a parish priest in central Australia with indigenous communities. He was co-facilitator of the FCBCO Suva Assembly in February 2023. He has a deep understanding of synodality, working with those at the margins, listening to Indigenous voices and celebrating an enculturated liturgy.

Fr Ormond Rush

Fr Rush is a priest of the Townsville Diocese and expert theologian on Vatican II. He is a member of the Synod of Bishops' Theological Commission and was a consultant theologian to the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia. He teaches and conducts research at Australian Catholic University and served as coordinating writer for the FCBCO's Discernment and Writing Group.