



Knights of the Southern Cross Formation Program 2022

SYNODALITY

KSC Formation Program 2022



“Adsumus Sancte Spiritus”

We stand before you Holy Spirit

Adsumus Sancte Spiritus

Together, listening to the Holy Spirit, let us be led by God, as we pray

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather 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



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FORMAT FOR THE SESSIONS.

Each Session should be limited to only 20 - 25 minutes

- Step 1. **Opening Prayer**
Opening Prayers are taken from the Order Prayers for Meetings of the Order.
- Step 2. **Reading of the Focus Theme**
Taken from the Vatican website and other identified sources can be read aloud entirely by one or by several Knights taking one each. It might be helpful if the readings were read, perhaps as part of daily prayer, before the scheduled meeting.
- Step 3. **Reflection**
A few moments of reflection on these readings in silence.
- Step 4. **Addressing the Questions**
5 Minutes for silent reflection on your individual response to the reflective questions. Knights might find it useful to underline or make notes during this time.
- Step 5. **Sharing**
Knights are invited to share their thoughts and reflections with each other. No more than 10 Minutes should be allowed for this.

There are some discussion points in each Session – they are meant to be helpful – but there may be other points that emerge from the reflections and these should be given 'first place' in any sharing.

- Step 6 **Conclusion of Sharing**
Session Prayer : **We stand before you Holy Spirit....**
- Step 7. **Meeting**
Business continues
- Step 8. **Closing Prayers**
From the Order Prayers for Meetings.

General Points

1. Choose a Formation Leader for the year so that someone is responsible for the facilitation of each Session. This means someone will 'do the homework' beforehand, allocate readers, and keep an eye on the time during each Session.
2. It is important that each member has his own sheet for the Session so that he can make any notes, underline things, etc.



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Introduction

Last year the Introduction to the 2021 KSC Formation program sought the guidance of the Holy Spirit: *"May the Holy Spirit accompany us with insight, wisdom, understanding, strength and perseverance"*. Following on from that theme we move to develop an understanding and participation in the Synod of 2022/3, which presents to us a continuation of seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit. However, this year we focus on our readiness and willingness as members of the KSC to be instruments in the action of the Holy Spirit, as we work towards a Synodal Church and so we take *Synodality* as our theme for 2022 and we pray: *We stand before you Holy Spirit*.

Every session of the Second Vatican Council began with this invocation to the Holy Spirit with prayer *Adsumus Sancte Spiritus*, the first word of the Latin original meaning, "We stand before You, Holy Spirit," which has been historically used at Councils, Synods, and other Church gatherings for hundreds of years, being attributed to Saint Isidore of Seville (c. 560 - 4 April 636). As we are called to embrace this synodal path of the Synod 2021-2023, this prayer invites the Holy Spirit to operate within us so that we may be a community and a people of grace. It has been proposed for our SYNOD 2021-23 to use this simplified version, so that any liturgical assembly or group, such as the KSC can pray more easily.

In announcing a Synod on Synodality for 2023, Pope Francis reaffirmed the Way of the Church is to walk alongside one another as Jesus has shown us in the Gospels by: Encounter; Listening; Discerning our way together. Most Dioceses across Australia have already begun to walk the synodal way through discussion and consultation on many local levels. Similarly, Groups are encouraged to address the theme of Synodality, and it therefore presents as an appropriate study for the KSC 2022 Formation Program. This is an ideal process for KSC together to listen to one another and to discern next steps for KSC in a synodal Church. Some individuals and/or groups may decide to make a submission.

The Synod of Bishops, which emerged out of the Second Vatican Council, was designed in part to provide a mechanism for global church leaders to come to Rome to confront certain challenges in church life. Now, in 2021-2023 its *newly retooled model* adds another component that begins with a listening stage with local churches at the diocesan level.

Building on the guiding principles of his papacy, Pope Francis last year invited Catholics both in the mainstream of church life and on the margins to express their dreams, ideas and concerns in preparation for the Synod of Bishops in 2023.

So, what is a Synod?

The word *Synod* comes from the Greek word meaning "assembly" or "meeting".

In 2022 the Catholic Church Synod will be a formal assembly or *journeying together* of the whole world-wide community: clergy, religious and lay people. Therefore, the Synod is a suitable instrument to give voice to the entire People of God. It has a consultative role, to offer information and advice to the Pope on various ecclesial questions. The role of the synod is primarily that of "listening to the People of God," *under the guidance of the Holy Spirit*. The Pope's invitation to discern a path forward



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for the church stems from his belief that the Holy Spirit inspires all members to be missionary disciples, sharing core Christian beliefs by going out to the world.

Pope Francis formally opened the synodal process under the theme "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission," the pope has called the church to practice synodality, that is listening to — and hearing — one another in all facets of church life. With this convocation, Pope Francis invites the entire Church to reflect on a theme that is decisive for its life and mission: "Our "journeying together" is, in fact, what most effectively enacts and manifests the nature of the Church as the pilgrim and missionary People of God.

It is especially important that the synodal processes happen in a spiritual setting that supports openness in sharing as well as hearing. For this reason, you are encouraged to base the local experience of the Synodal Process in meditation on Scripture, the liturgy, and prayer. In this way, our journey of listening to one another can be an authentic experience of discerning the voice of the Holy Spirit. Authentic discernment is made possible where there is time for deep reflection and a spirit of mutual trust, common faith, and a shared purpose.

This is a moment to be co-creators with the Spirit. ... It is a chance for reinvigorating an engaged KSC community through creativity and the call to be open. So, across Australia, I want to invite members of KSC to be part of this journey toward the Synod on Synodality. We recall that Vatican Council II understood the Church as the pilgrim People of God. Now, Pope Francis calls the whole Church, all of us, to walk together. Bishop Greg Bennet writes: 'It is an adventure. It is exciting. It will not be without its expectations and fears, clarity and confusion. It will require of us deep trust in the presence of the Holy Spirit who Jesus promised would lead us to the Truth'.

Many Resources are available, and this Formation Program relies on the Vatican website documents, with few exceptions where authors of these are identified. Our program has taken an eclectic process to identify, and emphasise, using information taken from the Official Handbook (Vademecum) on Listening and Discerning, where you may read in full on the Vatican website:

<https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/document/common/vademecum/Vademecum-EN-A4.pdf>

For all members of the KSC, in 2022 there's a chance to reaffirm the good and to re-imagine some things that could be better, as we stand before the Holy Spirit to seek guidance as together, we work to develop a synodal Church.

As Knights of the Southern Cross,

We stand before you Holy Spirit,

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