



Archbishop of Sydney

19 January 2022

To Synod Members
Via Email

Dear Members of Synod

The Lord bless you and keep you in his sovereign and tender care in this new year of his amazing grace. I hope and pray that you have had the opportunity not only to rejoice with others in the gifts of Christmas, but also to take some time for rest and refreshment over summer.

I am writing to inform you that I have decided to cancel the Synod session planned for 26 February to 2 March 2022, including the 'Synod in the Greenfields' day on the Saturday. In coming to this decision I have consulted with the Secretary of Synod, Daniel Glynn, and the Episcopal Team. I have formed the view that the risks of Synod becoming a 'spreader event' are too great for us to continue as planned. Given the format and duration of our meetings; the fact that we draw from every part of the Diocese; the likelihood of some people being COVID-positive and others needing to isolate as a result; as well as the uncertainty about the impact of the resumption of schooling; and 'the optics' – it seems the only sensible course.

It is a source of considerable disappointment to me that we are not able to proceed in the way that we had planned. I intend to work towards rescheduling the 'Synod in the Greenfields' for the weekend before the September session of Synod.

Please pray for our rectors and local churches, for our schools and agencies as they resume ministry, facing the ongoing challenges of the pandemic. I am deeply humbled by the diligence, prayerfulness and resilience of those who serve among us.

With warm greetings in Christ

Kanishka Raffel

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