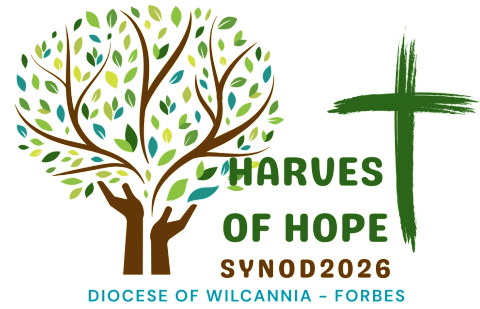


Hay Southern Deanery Synod Gathering Report



On Monday the 27th of April, 27 people came together in Hay for the third Deanery Gathering of the consultation process leading up to the Synod of the Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes, to be held in September/October 2026.

At this gathering we had a lot of parishioners from Hay, a few from the surrounding parishes and a lot of priests from the southern deanery (covering 6 parishes and a chaplaincy to the Carmelite Convent). We had a longer session (3 hours), so it was well-paced and Fr Paul Newton organised an ample morning tea and lunch. The conversation was passionate and respectful across the table-groups, covering both challenges as well as very positive developments in the various parishes. There was a sense of isolation in this part of the diocese, and a desire for the Bishop to visit more. However, there were also growing aspects in some places, such as schools, young families and multicultural parishes.

The groups reflected on the Synod scripture and considered **10 years on - Survive? Thrive?** from their local experience. They shared their ideas at both local and diocesan level - please see the full tables attached. The diocesan recommendations were workshopped together to be combined into 8 points from the southern deanery.

Thank you very much to everyone involved in making this happen! Our Lady of Perpetual Help, pray for us.



