

# COUNSELS EMERGING FROM

## The Peninsular Malaysia Regional Pastoral Assembly 2024



# COUNSELS 2024-2026

We are please to offer you **counsels** that has emerged from our communal discernment at the **Peninsular Malaysia Regional Pastoral Assembly 2024 (RPA2024)**. About 500 Catholics from the Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur, the Diocese of Penang, and the Diocese of Malacca Johore participated in this assembly. Together, we discerned four areas of pastoral concern: **Family, Church, Ecology, and Society**.

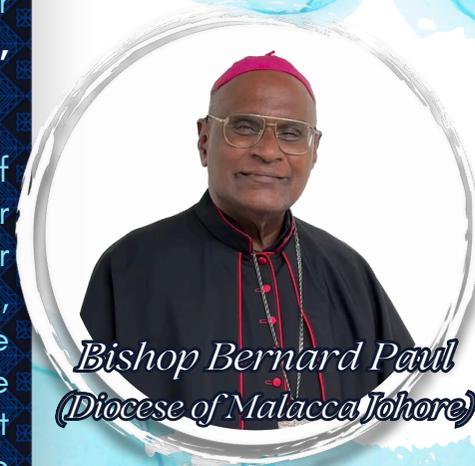
These **counsels** capture the essence of our shared discernment at the RPA. We offer them to the **Peninsular Church** for their pastoral reflection and application, encouraging each to adapt these recommendations to their own unique context. These counsels are also an important part of our discernment process with the Catholic Church of Sabah and Sarawak as we journey towards the **Malaysia Pastoral Convention 2026 (MPC2026)**.

May the Holy Spirit guide your discernment and pastoral applications of these "counsels" in building your parish communities and ministries.

Respectfully, Your Shepherds,



*Cardinal Sabastian Francis  
(Diocese of Penang)*



*Bishop Bernard Paul  
(Diocese of Malacca Johore)*



*Archbishop Julian Leow  
(Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur)*

# UNDERSTANDING THE COUNSELS

Why Counsels? The RPA2024 is an important part of our journey towards MPC2026. While we cannot foresee exactly what will emerge, we are working toward a deeper communion of the Catholic Church across **Semenanjung, Sabah, and Sarawak**.

Each region will hold its own RPA, and what emerges from the discernments will form the framework for discussions and further discernment at MPC2026.

We refer to the discernments as **counsels** because while we work towards MPC2026, these **counsels** can serve as an aid and guidelines in the pastoral considerations of each diocese within its own unique context.

These **Counsels** comprise of:

1. **Keyword** such as “accompanying” that captures the essence of our counsel in moving forward.
2. **Rationale** that sheds light on the pastoral thrust behind it.
3. **Key pastoral recommendations** that emerged from our communal discernment.

It is by this, we hope that each within their own context can move forward toward building areas of their pastoral concerns—whether related to **Family, Church, Ecology, or Society**.

This is how we can walk together towards MPC2026 and beyond, in a spirit of communion, participation, and mission.

## FAMILY

*Accompanying*

### RATIONALE

We are called to nurture family values; accompany those facing challenges; strengthen faith and relationships toward building God-centered families.

### PASTORAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Creating time for bonding, formation, and prayer.
- Creating space and freedom for growth.
- Reviewing and updating programmes in the light of current issues.
- Developing programmes which are inclusive and integrate all sectors.

## CHURCH

*Merciful*

### RATIONALE

We are called to be a merciful Church whereby people will see the face of Jesus in each other. By being merciful, the Church fosters a sense of belonging and empowers us to evangelise.

### PASTORAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Embracing the diversity of our communities.
- Creating a space of shared responsibility and collaborative ministry.
- Adapting Basic Ecclesial Communities to respond creatively to the emerging trends and grassroots realities.
- Catechising disciples to become servant leaders for mission.

## ECOLOGY

*Stewardship*

### RATIONALE

We are called to take ownership of the urgent mission of saving Mother Earth which includes stopping the plunder and exploitation of resources and avoiding wastage. Act Now!

### PASTORAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Ensuring consistent education and implementation at all levels.
- Practising the 4 R's - refuse, reduce, recycle and restore.
- Fostering a spirituality which rejects the culture of consumerism and upholds creation justice.

## SOCIETY

*Prophetic*

### RATIONALE

We are called to build a harmonious society through visible collaboration while reinforcing gospel values.

### PASTORAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Promoting :

- Social Action.
- Participation in Awareness Programmes.
- Sharing Resources and Talents.
- New Ministries in response to current social challenges.
- Dialogue of Life.