

Sarawak Regional Pastoral Assembly

"The Catholic Church in Sarawak, Malaysia
coming together as People of God
to celebrate, listen and walk for mission."

18th & 19th September 2024

Sibu Diocesan Pastoral Centre



Update to MPC2026 CWC Meeting #17 - 25 Nov 2024

- ❑ **Held at the Kemuyang Pastoral Centre, Sibul from 18-19 September 2024**
- ❑ **Attended by 161 participants from Kuching, Sibul, Miri, KK, KL, Penang - 4 arch/bishops, 28 clergy, 10 religious sisters, 119 laity**
- ❑ **3 Diocesan Reports – One Catholic Church : came together as clergy, religious and laity to:**
 - **listen to pastoral progress and initiatives in the various regions;**
 - **focus on responding to the challenges affecting the Church, Family, Society and Ecology.**

- ❑ Delegates divided into 29 groups to discern the voice of the Holy Spirit through the Spiritual Conversation methodology.**

- ❑ Delegates' shared concerns centred on 7 key points as highlighted in the Synthesis Report :**
 - The importance of Faith Formation in the Family.**
 - The Family is the domestic Church.**
 - The Church is the Family of God. The Church is not an organisation but a living and growing community of believers.**
 - Everyone has a vocation and role to play in the Church.**
 - A Church that is inclusive and no one should be left behind in the journey of faith in the Church.**
 - A courageous Church that engages with society.**
 - Ecological conversion is for everyone.**

- ❑ **Encapsulate the seeds that embody the vision and mission of the dioceses.**
 - **We are called to discipleship (*a personal relationship with Jesus*).**
 - **We are called to be a family: communion (*with God and with one another*).**
 - **Faith formation is an integral part of discipleship.**
 - **The family and the Church support one another in faith formation.**
 - **Firmly formed in the faith, we are able to witness our faith in society.**

□ **Insights from Emeritus Archbishop John Ha:**

- **SRPA is a step towards MPC 2026. Since the goal of the MPC is to realise it as a Malaysian Church, question to ponder : “*Is there a Malaysian Church? What is a Malaysian Church?*”**
- **Synodality must be the underpinning force for the universal as well as the Malaysian Church. No one is left behind. It is unity in plurality, unity in diversity.**

□ Drawing inspiration from the Reports, the Archbishop proposed that after MPC 2026, to let the entire Malaysian Church carry out a 3-Year Programme as follows:

- Year 1: Bible Year – Word of God**
- Year 2: Apostles Creed – Faith**
- Year 3: Sacraments – Liturgy and Life (living Faith)**
- Each year be accompanied with prayer as well as conversation experience programmes, to put everyone in a level playing field to allow for synodality.**

REFLECTIONS FROM THE 3 ARCH/BISHOPS:

BISHOP JOSEPH HII :

Reflected on the early History of the Church in Sibu, beginning with the Brooke family. He would like to see peace in Malaysia.

Uniting the 4 areas of concerns - Family, Church, Society and Ecology equates to what he calls HOME. Once we are really at home with our family, church, society and ecology, we are actually “at home with God.”

BISHOP RICHARD NG :

The Church needs to prepare for the future. The way forward is through MISSION.

Synodality is always about Mission, it is hoped Sarawak will be able to send missionaries out into the world one day. He commended Archbishop Emeritus John for his proposal of a 3-Year Programme to provide solid faith formation.

ARCHBISHOP SIMON POH:

Reflected on Evangelisation and Mission. The workplace is an overlooked area for evangelisation - building disciples for mission, to let “Jesus go out to the people,” and to “make mission the heart of the assembly.”

Groom the young people so there will be a mix of young and elderly. Young people have energy and enthusiasm, whereas the elderly have the wisdom to guide them, resulting in One Church in communion and solidarity.

Citing Pope Francis while in Singapore - it is okay to criticise the Church when it is to “bring something good and not to put people down.” “Become a welcoming Church - go beyond our parish, diocese, Malaysia, Asia and the world. God’s love does not differentiate anyone. So, ask God to help us to always be a welcoming Church and bring His love and mercy to all.

WAY FORWARD

- ❑ Adopt & integrate SRPA2024 Outcomes & Recommendations as part of respective Dioceses' Pastoral Strategies & Action Plans for continuity & a journey towards MPC2026**
- ❑ Pursue MISSION for EVANGELISATION - bringing home the lost sheeps & building discipleship among the people of God.**