

# 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 Sibuan, 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.**