

Welcome to Synod 2025

Date: 3rd to 5th October 2025

Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki
First Session of the Forty-Third Synod



A Message of Welcome

Dear Synod Members,

Welcome to the first session of the Forty-Third Synod of the Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki, being held this year in the Taranaki region.

The Anglican Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia has embraced synodal governance since 1857, when Bishop Selwyn convened a General Conference in Auckland. This historic gathering marked the first time a Bishop in the Church of England shared diocesan governance with clergy and laity. The Constitution approved at that conference laid the foundation for our synodal structure.

Bishop Selwyn's guiding principle remains central to our governance:

"It remains then to define by some simple principle the terms of our co-operation. They are simply these; that neither will I act without you, nor can you act without me."

Synod Summons & Communications

In accordance with the **Standing Orders Statute 1972**, the Bishop will issue a formal summons to attend Synod by **Friday, 5 September 2025**, via email or post.

All other Synod communications and documents will be sent electronically.

 *If a representative in your ministry unit does not have email access, please ensure they receive a copy of this letter.*

Purpose of Gathering

As Synod members, we gather to:

- Worship together
- Participate in the governance of our Diocese
- Strengthen our community through fellowship and trust

Synod 2025 Locations & Schedule

Synod will be held over three days in **Stratford and New Plymouth**:

- **Friday Evening:**
Opening Service – Chapel of St Mary, Stratford Diocesan School for Girls
- **Saturday (Daytime):**
Synod Sessions – Stratford Memorial Hall, 55 Miranda Street, Stratford
- **Saturday Evening:**
Synod Dinner – Stratford Diocesan School for Girls Dining Hall
- **Sunday Morning:**
Final Session – Te Whare Hononga, Taranaki Cathedral, 37 Vivian Street, New Plymouth

Observers

Visitors and non-Synod members are welcome to attend as **observers**:

- Access will be provided via a designated viewing area.
- At any time, the President may request observers to withdraw, at the request of a Synod member.

Pre-Synod Documents Access

Available from **Friday, 5 September 2025** at:

 <https://www.waikatotaranakianglicans.nz/synod/>

Login: A password is included in the confirmation email, once you have registered.

Bills, Motions & Reports

Deadline: 4:30 PM, Monday 18 August 2025

- Motions must include the names of the **mover** and **second**.
- Email submissions to: admin@wtanglican.nz
- If posting, we recommend using a **courier service** to ensure timely delivery.

Synod Elections 2025

This year, Synod will elect representatives to two key bodies:

1. Standing Committee

- **Three Lay** and **Three Clerical** members
- Submit nominations using the **Standing Committee Nominations Form**
- Include a **brief CV or summary (max 100 words)** outlining relevant skills and experience

2. General Synod / Te Hīnota Whānui

- **Three Lay** and **Two Clerical** representatives
- Submit nominations using the **General Synod Nominations Form**.
- Include a **brief CV or summary (max 100 words)** outlining relevant skills and experience

Final Deadline for Nominations:

 **Friday, 19 September 2025**

 Email to: admin@wtanglican.nz

Election Information Access

Details of nominations and forms will be available from **Friday, 26 September 2025** at:

 <https://www.waikatotaranakianglicans.nz/synod/>

Leave of Absence

Leave of Absence' from Synod, to be received before Friday, September 26, 2025;

- Put in writing to the Bishop, with the reason for your request.
- Email direct to the Bishop via: bishopsoffice@wtanglican.nz

Synod 2025 – General Overview



Weekend Schedule

Friday, 3 October – Arrival & Opening

- **Sign-In Register Opens:** 3:00 PM
📍 *Stratford Diocesan School for Girls, 61 Broadway North, Stratford*
➤ Check-In from 3:00 PM if staying in the school hostel (bed & breakfast)
- **Dinner (Pre-booked only):** 5:00 PM – 6:15 PM
📍 *School Dining Hall* | 💰 \$25 per person
⚠️ *Meal tickets must be pre-booked via the registration form. No walk-ins.*
- **Opening Service:** 6:30 PM (Please be seated by 6:20 PM)
📍 *Chapel of St Mary, Stratford Diocesan School*
➤ Bishop Philip will deliver his charge and formally constitute Synod.

Saturday, 4 October – Synod Sessions

- **Start Time:** 9:00 AM (Be seated by 8:50 AM)
📍 *Stratford Memorial Hall, 55 Miranda Street*
➤ Sign in at the Registration Desk before being seated.
- **Meals Provided:**
 - Morning Tea, Afternoon Tea
 - Lunch
 - Dinner (6:30 PM at the Stratford School Dining Hall)

Sunday, 5 October – Final Session

- **Start Time:** 9:00 AM (Be seated by 8:50 AM)
📍 *Te Whare Hononga, Taranaki Cathedral, 37 Vivian St, New Plymouth*
➤ Sign in at the Registration Desk before being seated.
- **Conclusion:** By 12:00 PM
➤ A packed lunch will be provided. You may take it with you or enjoy it onsite.



Important Dates & Deadlines

Date	Details
18 August	Last day to submit Bills, Motions, and Reports
5 September	Synod Summons and documents available
19 September	Final day for Election Nominations
21 September	Final day to register (attendance, accommodation, meals)
26 September	Deadline for Leave of Absence requests (in writing to the Bishop) at bishopsoffice@wtanglican.nz

 *Late leave of absence requests may result in your parish being invoiced for Synod costs.*



Accommodation – Stratford Diocesan School Boarding House

- **Rooms:** 49 twin-share rooms (single beds)
- **Shared Bathrooms:** 1 per 2 rooms
- **Facilities:** 3 common rooms with tea/coffee/milo stations
- **Bring Your Own:** Duvet/blanket, sheets, pillow/cover, towels
- **Check-In:** From 3:00 PM, Friday 3 October
- **Check-Out:** By 10:00 AM, Sunday 5 October

 No smoking, vaping, illegal substances, or unauthorized alcohol.

 Report any damages immediately (photos encouraged).

 **Priority given to non-local attendees.**

 **All bookings must be made via the individual online registration form.**



Alternative Accommodation

If you prefer to stay elsewhere, you are responsible for your own arrangements and costs.

 *Discuss financial support directly with your ministry unit.*

Synod Costs

(Invoiced to Parishes/Ministry Units)

Item	Cost (per person)
Friday Dinner (pre-booked)	\$25
Boarding House (2 nights incl. breakfast)	\$100
Synod Meals (Sat & Sun)	\$85

 Covers all meals provided at Synod. Dietary needs must be noted with your registration.

Registration Details

- **Opens:** Monday, 01 August 2025
- **Closes:** Sunday, 21 September 2025

 Registration Online below: (Use **(Control button + click)** to follow the link):

[Synod 2025 Individual Registration Form](#)

 No internet? Contact Jennifer (Admin) at 07-857-0020 for assistance.

 Late cancellations and/or absences, may incur charges to your ministry unit.

Contact Information

- **Email:** admin@wtanglican.nz
- **Phone:** 07 857 0020
- **Mobile:** 027 490 6006
- **Mail:** Synod 2025 Registration, Waikato Diocesan Office, PO Box 21, Hamilton 3240
- **Website:** <https://www.waikatotaranakianglicans.nz/synod/>
- **Leave of Absence:** Email the Bishop's office directly: bishopsoffice@wtanglican.nz