



Welcome to Synod 2026

Waikato Diocesan School for Girls 16 - 18 October 2026

A Message of Welcome

Dear Synod Members,

Welcome to the second session of the Forty-Third Synod of the Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki, being held this year in the Waikato 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 and Communications

In accordance with the **Standing Orders Statute 1972**, the Bishop will issue a formal summons to attend Synod by **Friday 18 September 2026**, 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

Diocesan Centenary

In 2026 we mark a significant milestone — 100 years since the founding of the Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki. It is a moment to give thanks for a century of faithful ministry across our region, to honour those who have gone before us, and to look forward together in hope.

This centenary belongs to the whole Diocese, and part of the celebration takes place right across our parishes and ministry units. We are encouraging every parish to mark the occasion in their own way, and to support this a liturgy will be provided for use in a centenary celebration service. Synod itself forms a central part of these diocesan-wide celebrations, drawing us together as one community to give thanks.

At Synod, we warmly invite all members to join us on Saturday 17 October for the Centenary Service at Southwell School Chapel, 200 Peachgrove Rd, Hamilton, followed by the Centenary Dinner at The Narrows Landing, 431 Airport Rd, Rukuhia (free parking available). The Diocese is significantly subsidising the dinner, bringing the cost to attendees down to just \$40 per person, so that as many of our Synod whānau as possible can share in this special occasion together.

We look forward to celebrating this historic occasion as one community — grateful for the past, and joyful in the present.

Synod 2026 Locations & Schedule

Synod will be held over three days, based in the All Saints Chapel at Waikato Diocesan School for Girls, River Rd, Hamilton.

Parking: please use the Martin St entrance & turn right immediately through the school gates. Proceed to courts area for parking.

The Centenary Service on Saturday evening will be held at Southwell School Chapel followed by dinner at The Narrows Landing.

Date	Time	Activity
Friday 16 October	from 4.00 pm 5.00 pm 6.00 pm	Registration Dinner (optional) Opening Service
Saturday 17 October	from 8.30 am 9.00 am - 4.00 pm 5.00 pm 7.00 pm	Registration Synod sessions Centenary Service Centenary Dinner
Sunday 18 October	from 8.30 am 9.00 am - 12.00 pm	Registration Synod Sessions

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 18 September** at:

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

Password: hamilton2026

Leave of Absence

Requests for a Leave of Absence from Synod must be received for each affected Synod session before Thursday 8 October 2026.

- Put in writing to the Bishop, with the reason for your request
- Specify if your request relates to all of Synod, or specific sessions
- Email direct to the Bishop via bishopsoffice@wtanglican.nz

 *If you have registered to attend Synod, leave of absence requests received after 8 October may result in your parish being invoiced for Synod costs*

Accommodation

As Synod is taking place during term time, accommodation is not available at the venue. Attendees will be responsible for organising their own accommodation if required.

The following local motels currently have availability, bookings will accepted subject to availability on request:

Aaron Court Motor Inn <https://www.aaroncourt.co.nz/>

Alcamo Motel <https://www.alcamohotel.co.nz/>

Grosvenor Motel <https://grosvenor.co.nz/>

Hygate Motor Lodge <https://hygate.co.nz/>

Aspen Manor Motel <http://www.aspenmanor.co.nz/>

Albert Court Motor Lodge <https://www.albertcourt.co.nz/>

Synod costs

Synod costs will be invoiced to Parishes/Ministry Units.

 *Covers all meals provided during Synod. Any dietary needs must be noted on your registration - a surcharge of \$12 per person may apply.*

Event	Cost per person
Friday dinner (attendance optional)	\$29
Synod meals & refreshments	\$51
Saturday Centenary Dinner (attendance optional)	\$40
Sunday packed lunch (prebooked - optional)	\$19

Registrations for Synod

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE THURSDAY 8 OCTOBER 2026

Click on this link to access the Registration Form

<https://wtanglican.infoodle.com/f/SynodRegistration2026>

Contact Us

If you need assistance, feel free to contact Pam Goodin

EMAIL admin@wtanglican.nz

PHONE 07 857 0020

MOBILE 027 490 6006

MAIL Synod 2026 Registration, Waikato Taranaki Anglicans, 104A Morrinsville Rd, Te Ara Hou Village, Hamilton 3216

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE Email the Bishop's office directly
bishopsoffice@wtanglican.nz