Synod
2021
2023

For a synodal Church

communion | participation | mission

The Synod and Me

What is Happening?

At this time in the Catholic Church, across the world, Pope Francis has called for a period of listening, in preparation for a gathering, known as a Synod, in Rome in October 2023.

In the past, it has traditionally been Bishops who take part in Synods, but this time, Pope Francis wants to hear from all of us.

He is asking us to listen to one another and share our experiences of the Church.

How Can I take Part?

You can use one of the Synod Postcards that are available in your church, to record your thoughts.

On your postcard you will see four questions that ask you about your experience of the Church and for your suggestions about how we can walk the path of faith and life together better in the future.

Take the postcard home – fill it in and return to us by end of March.

You might want to share it with family and have a chat about the questions – conversation is central to the synodal process so listen to others and see what you discover.

If you prefer, you can take part in an online consultation. You can find this at www.downandconnor.org/synod

The platform will remain open until Palm Sunday 10th April.

What will Happen to all the Information that is Gathered?

Each Diocese in the world will be listening and sharing their experiences and each Diocese will submit a record of what they have heard to the Bishops' Conference - in our case the Irish Bishops.

They, in turn, will submit a report of what they have heard to the Vatican by August of this year, in preparation for the consideration and discernment that will take place at the Synod gathering in Rome in 2023.

We are sure to hear about good experiences and bad. We are sure to hear that some people want things to change and others will want things to stay the same.

It will take a lot of listening to each other, praying with each other and meeting each other over the coming months and years to figure out and to discern what the Holy Spirit is telling us.

What Else Can I do?

- Pray! Holy Spirit, guide our thoughts and words. Help us to listen and be listened to.
- Tell other friends and family members about the Synod and the questionnaire.
- Help others to share their thoughts, especially our young people, and those who don't come to church.
- Look out for information about the Synod on our parish website and Facebook page.
- Remember, this is only the start of the process of renewal and change within the Catholic Church.
- Be patient, and Pray!

... We recall that the purpose of the Synod, and therefore of this consultation, is not to produce documents, but "to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to flourish, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships, awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another and create a bright resourcefulness that will enlighten minds, warm hearts, give strength to our hands ...

Pope Francis October 2018