



## **Synod**

### **Walking Together**

“Synod” simply means “journeying together”.

Pope Francis, following on from his invitation in 2013 for us to become “missionary disciples”, has called a Universal Synod which is taking place in every Catholic diocese across the world. The Synod is themed: “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission”. This two-year journey’s (2021-23) goal is for all members of the church to be heard.

### **What does this mean for our Diocese?**

In our Diocese, we are asked to submit our responses and observations. Eventually, after Diocesan, National and Continental gatherings, the Synod of Bishops will gather in Rome in 2023 to reflect on what has been heard.

The Holy Father is inviting us to listen deeply to one another; to discern what God is saying to the Church, and to enter into a dialogue about how we can journey together into the future. He has also asked us to think about how we can invite those on the margins and those searching for faith to walk with us in communion.

### **How Can I Take Part?**

We want to hear how you think we can best live out Pope Francis’s vision of a participatory, responsible, evangelising church.

You can participate in the first stage of the Synod collectively or individually by providing your feedback to us. We encourage you to pray and discern about the following:

A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, “journeys together.” How is this “journeying together” happening today in your local Church? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our “journeying together”? (PD, 26).

Pope Francis has provided us with a set of Reflection Questions to address, both personally and in group meetings.

You can submit your feedback individually online via email to the parish email address or by writing and leave your submissions in the Suggestion Box found in the church. Please feel free to answer as many or as few questions as you like.

Your contribution is invaluable and will make a considerable difference to the future of the church in our diocese and across the world.

## **The Questions**

“What changes need to be made – **in myself**,  
in **our parish** & in **the Diocese** –  
to make the Church’s mission today more vibrant and effective?”

### **1. THE JOURNEYING COMPANIONS**

How can we be more welcoming as a Christian community?

### **2. LISTENING**

To whom do we listen?

### **3. SPEAKING OUT**

How can we be more honest in our dealings with each other?

### **4. CELEBRATING**

How might we celebrate better the Liturgy in our parish?

### **5. CO-RESPONSIBLE IN THE MISSION**

How well do we work together as clergy and laity for the mission of the Church?

### **6. DIALOGUE IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY**

How can our group, parish, diocese and the Church be more outward-facing?

### **7. WITH THE OTHER CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS**

In what ways might we improve our dialogue and relationship with other Christians?

### **8. AUTHORITY AND PARTICIPATION**

How can we make the Church more participatory and increase coresponsibility?

### **9. DISCERNING AND DECIDING**

In a synodal style Church, what new processes of decision-making and decision-taking are needed? How transparent and accountable are the decisions made?

### **10. FORMING OURSELVES IN SYNODALITY**

How do we form people to make them more capable of “journeying together”