



## Synodal process 2021- 2023 - what is it?

"Pope Francis has posed some basic questions to all parishes around the world thus starting the synodal process throughout the Church.

The Synodal church means People of God on a journey, walking together as an assembly called by the Lord. The Pope wants to know how well are we as a Church. Through the Synodal process, the Church is taking stock of itself prior to Synod of Bishops in 2023. This means that bishops around the world will consult with everyone from parishioners to monks, nuns and Catholic universities before coming together for a discussion in 2023. This will be the basis for the Church to be effective in the future, "to make new members in this fractured and sad world,"

So we all, as individuals, and as a parish, are invited to consider these basic questions.

The Holy Father wants the Church to grow in three key areas: **Communion, Participation and Mission.**

Here are the questions:

### **Communion:**

- 1) What are the ways in which your parish most successfully brings people together?
- 2) How is this reflected in your parish/community life? Are there other reasons that you gather together?

### **Participation**

- 3) Reflecting on 16 months of the pandemic, how has participation in your parish been affected? Were these issues there before?
- 4) How can we better enable full participation and co-responsibility in the life of the Church at the parish and diocesan levels?

### **Mission**

- 5) Are we looking in or are we looking out, as a parish community? Can we do both effectively?
- 6) How does the life of the parish, in terms of catechesis, adult formation, liturgy etc. aid in the formation of parishioners as missionary disciples?

Each local parish is asked to host a meeting, or series of meetings to answer these questions. We ask that you, whoever can, stay in church after mass and think if you would like to be a part of the discussion group. This task might require one or two meetings. We need to send the answers to the diocese by 26th November.

**Synod Talk to Church – 30/31 October**