



DIOCESE OF  SALFORD

For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

Journeying Together

Stay with us Lord on our Journey

Introduction

Pope Francis has launched a worldwide 'synodal' process. Synod simply means 'journeying together'. 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. We will have our own synodal pathway, within our parishes and communities in the Diocese of Salford, united with every diocese across the world. Then, after national and continental gatherings, the Synod of Bishops will gather in Rome in 2023 to reflect on what has been heard.

We invite you to reflect on the following questions in a spirit of prayer and discernment. A prayer to the Holy Spirit, and a piece of scripture taken from the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35), can be found on the back page of this booklet.

Reflection Questions

1. Your experience during the Covid-19 Pandemic

What has been your experience of your parish/community during the Pandemic?

2. Listening

How can we best listen to each other, in the Church and in the wider world?

3. Speaking Out

How do we communicate with each other in our groups, parishes, diocese? Do we have the freedom to speak openly in a loving way?

4. Celebrating

In what ways does prayer and the celebration of Mass enable us to encounter Jesus more deeply and empower us in our daily lives?

5. Listening to the Holy Spirit

What do you sense the Holy Spirit asking of the Church?

6. The Journeying Companions

Who walks with us on our journey of faith? What persons or groups are marginalised?

7. Sharing in the Mission

How can we best share the Good News of Jesus with others? What difference are we currently making?

8. Dialogue in Church and Society

In what ways do our parishes/communities speak to each other and the wider society? How could we do this better?

9. With the other Christian Denominations and other faiths

How are we as a community listening to, and enriched by, other Christian denominations and other faiths?

10. Authority and Participation

In what ways do we take collective responsibility (priest and lay faithful collaboration) for our community? What are the fruits of this collaboration, and what are the obstacles and challenges?

11. Discerning and Deciding

How do we discern together the direction in which the Holy Spirit is leading us? How can we develop this shared responsibility together?

12. Growing and Journeying Together

What support do we need to help us grow as a Church journeying together, listening to each other and the Spirit?

13. Additional Comments

Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

Join the Conversation

You can make a response collectively as a parish community or individually via the online form or using the paper form. For more information, please contact us:

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Post: Synod, Cathedral Centre, 3 Ford Street, Salford, M3 6DP

Email: synod@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Tel: 0161 817 2214

Please send in your response before the deadline of Tuesday 1st March 2022.

Synod Prayer

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever.

Amen.



“Were not our hearts burning within us while Jesus talked
with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

Luke 24:32