

Synodal Conversations Part 1

In an "ideal world" our Parishes would hold many small prayer-based groups to consult with and record the thoughts of all our parishioners.

Even without the pandemic, this would not be possible in the short 2-month timeframe available to us. Given the pandemic, we have to adopt another method and so have adopted the use of a series of online questionnaires over a 3-week period.

This is the first of those questionnaires and considers the Fundamental questions being asked of us and invites you to share your experience of "Listening" and "Speaking Out" in your parish.



Privacy Notice

All responses are anonymous, please do not add your name or email address to the returns or include any information that may identify you. We will not store your identity or anything that identifies you. All returns will be scanned and retained electronically on Clifton Diocese servers for aggregation and reporting and for onward transmission to Clifton Diocese and the Bishops Conference of England and Wales. All returns less anything that can potentially identify an individual will be passed on to Clifton Diocese, and through them to the Conference of Bishops of England and Wales.

All returns will be deleted/destroyed within the Parish within 6 months when no longer required for the purpose of the 21/23 Synod and any resulting Parish action plan.

Full details of the Parish/Diocese Privacy Notice are available at:

<https://cliftondiocese.com/privacy-notice/>

Background Information

Which Parish are you responding from?

- St Patrick's, Corsham
- St Mary's, Chippenham

What Age are You?

- <20
- 20 – 29
- 30 – 39
- 40 – 49
- 50 – 59
- 60 – 69
- >= 70
- Prefer Not to Say

How often do you attend Mass?

- More than Weekly
- Weekly
- Once or twice a month
- A few times a year
- Rarely or never
- Prefer Not to Say

Are you responding as an individual or a family group?

- Individual
- Family
- Other _____

The Word of God

A Reading from Acts 2: 14-21

Then Peter stood up with the eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed to them ... "These people are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is

what was spoken through the prophet Joel: 'It will come to pass in the last days,' God says 'that I will pour out a portion of my spirit upon all flesh. Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams' Indeed, upon my servants and my handmaids I will pour out a portion of my spirit in those days, and they shall prophesy.

And, I will work wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below: blood, fire, and a cloud of smoke.

The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the coming of the great and splendid day of the Lord, and it shall be that everyone shall be saved who calls on the name of the Lord.

Silent Prayer

Pray in silence for 10-20 minutes and conclude the time of prayer saying the 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.

Part 1 The Fundamental Questions

In part 1 we consider the fundamental questions asked of the 2023 Synod:

What are your experiences of "Journeying Together" to announce the gospel by your deeds and in your words?

You are asked to reflect on the 2 aspects of "journeying together":

.. Listening to Others

.. Speaking Out (so that others may listen to you"

Begin by reflecting on the following core principle and question: A Synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, "journeys together."

How is this "journeying together" happening to you today?

How is the Holy Spirit inviting your catholic community to grow in “journeying together”?

What experiences, in your local parish, does this question bring to mind? What are the joys of your parish life?

What are the difficulties and obstacles to active spiritual life that you have encountered?

Sharing on Listening

“Listening is the first step, but it requires an open mind and heart, without prejudice.” “The meaning of the journey to which we are all called is above all that of discovering the face and form of a Synodal Church, in which everyone has something to learn. The faithful people, the college of bishops, the Bishop of Rome: all listening to each other, and all listening to the Holy Spirit.”

How is God speaking to us through the voices that are in our midst?

How is God speaking to us through voices we sometimes ignore, including those on the peripheries?

What space is there to listen to the voices on the peripheries, especially cultural groups, women, the disabled, those who experience poverty, marginalization, or social exclusion?

Sharing on Speaking Out

All are invited to speak with courage and parrhesia, that is, in freedom, truth, and charity. “The Pastors, established by God as ‘authentic guardians, interpreters and witnesses of the faith of the whole Church’ should not be afraid to listen to the flock entrusted to them. The consultation of the People of God does not imply the assumption within the Church of the dynamics of democracy based on the principle of majority because there is, at the basis of participation in every Synodal process, a shared passion for the common mission of evangelization and not the representation of conflicting interests.”

What enables or hinders you from speaking up courageously, candidly, and responsibly in your parish and society?

What space is there in your parish for the voice of people, including active and inactive members of our faith