

# Synodal Conversations Part 2

This is our second questionnaire and, as with the first one, we recommend you approach the questions in a quiet and prayerful way. You will probably have taken a break after the first questionnaire so take time again to pray and consider the Gospel.

The themes covered in this part are:

- Responsibility for our Common Mission: To value and involve the unique role and vocation of each member of the Body of Christ, for the renewal and building up of the whole Church.
- Sharing Authority and Participation: A synodal church is a participatory and co-responsible Church, capable of appreciating its own rich variety, and embraces all those we often forget or ignore.
- Discerning and Deciding: In a synodal style we make decisions through discernment of what the Holy Spirit is saying through our whole community.



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## 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.

The Word 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.

## Sharing on Sharing Responsibility For Our Common Mission and Sharing Authority And Participation

“Synodality is at the service of the mission of the Church, in which all members are called to participate. A Synodal church is a participatory and co-responsible Church.”

The members of the People of God are united by Baptism, and “if by the will of Christ some are made teachers, pastors and dispenser of mysteries on behalf of others, yet all share a true equality with regard to dignity and to the activity common to all the Faithful for the building up of the Body of Christ.”

*How are the baptized members of your catholic community able to participate in the mission of the Church to proclaim the Gospel??*

*What hinders people from being active?*

*How is authority or governance exercised in your local parish?*

*How are teamwork and co-responsibility put into practice in your local parish?*

### *Sharing on Discerning And Deciding*

In a Synodal style, we make decisions through discernment of what the Holy Spirit is saying through our whole community. Synodal style of decision-making is to listen first, dialogue, pray, discern, and then the priest makes a decision on behalf of community. A Synodal Church does not make decisions to accomplish pre-identified priorities. "In a Synodal Church, the whole community, in the free and rich diversity of its members, is called together to pray, listen, analyse, dialogue, discern and offer advice on making pastoral decisions which correspond as closely as possible to God's will." (Vademecum no. 1.4)

*How does your parish use the methods of listening and speaking (consultation) to make decisions?*

*Do the decision-making methods of your parish help you to listen to all members of the community, including those who are on the peripheries of parish life?*

### *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*