

Synodal Conversations Part 3

This is our third and final questionnaire. Again, we recommend you approach the questions in a quiet and prayerful way. You will probably have taken a break after part 2 so take time again to pray and consider the Gospel.

The themes covered in this questionnaire are:

Celebration: “Journeying Together” is only possible if it is based on communal listening to the Word and the celebration of the Eucharist.

The Holy Spirit: Synodality entails receptivity to change, formation, and on-going learning. How is the Holy Spirit speaking to you?



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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 Celebration

"They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles" (Acts 2:42-43).

"Journeying together" is only possible if it is based on communal listening to the Word and the celebration of the Eucharist.

How does prayer and liturgical celebrations, especially Sunday Mass, inspire and guide you, your family and your wider catholic community?

How does your prayer life and celebration of the Mass inspire and inform your personal decisions and decisions in the parish community?

How does the parish invite all baptized Catholics, including our ethnic communities, youth, families and persons with disabilities and their families, into the active life of the parish, especially Sunday Mass?

Final Question - Sharing on the Holy Spirit

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13) The Holy Spirit sent by Christ and received in our Baptism and Confirmation guides our efforts, breathes life and vitality into the Church, and leads us into a deeper relationship with Jesus and deeper communion with the Church in order to proclaim the Gospel. This Synodal journey is guided by the Holy Spirit

Name one insight where you heard the voice of the Holy Spirit in this process?

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