



What is a Synod

The word synod refers to a Church assembly brought together to answer some of the prominent questions that need addressing, in the light of the Gospel and with the help of the Holy Spirit. There have been a number of different synods on a variety of subjects, however in this one, the prominent questions being addressed are about Communion, Participation and Mission.

Pope Francis is inviting us to take the synodal journey together. Bishops will play a key role in the synodal process, listening to the people of God in their particular Church and, under the power of the Holy Spirit, hearing and discerning what is being said of that Church. We are hoping as many people as possible will share their responses.....

Bishop Richard writes.....

“Our engagement in the “Synod Path” is a response to an invitation from the Holy Father, who invites us to prayer, discernment and openness to the Holy Spirit. He asks us to address particular questions, in order to assist him and the bishops who will gather for the Synod in their work for the good of the whole Church.

These questions are wide-ranging and significant for the life of the Universal Church and for our own Diocesan family, for they invite us to explore more deeply our own mission, our formation for that mission and the prayer that must always be the foundation for our lives of faith and witness to the Risen Christ. “

How is our Diocese responding to the call to answer the Synod questions?

We have divided the questions asked by Rome into three sections - or sessions - under the headings Communion, Participation and Mission. Each session has been devised to include opportunities for prayer, reflection, and scripture, and can be worked on as part of a group or individually.

How is our Parish responding to the call to answer the Synod questions?

We will hold a series of three group sessions structured around the synod questions set by the Vatican, using the materials prepared by our diocese.

Session 1	Communion	Wednesday 12 th January	7.00pm
Session 2	Participation	Wednesday 19 th January	7.00pm
Session 3	Mission	Wednesday 26 th January	7.00pm

Our sessions will take place in the church and will involve scripture, reflection, discussion, listening and prayer.

At the end of the process we will submit our parish feedback to the diocese. Responses from across our diocese will be collated throughout February 2022 and Bishop Richard will present a summary of the feedback during an online meeting in March.

Can I respond by myself, without being in a group?

Yes. We would suggest that you use the booklet available here:

<https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/synod>

to help you reflect on the Synod questions, using the diocesan online submission form (available on that page) to submit your contribution.

The deadline for all submissions is **Friday 4th February 2022**

Pope Francis' hope is that as many people as possible will get involved in the process and we, here in the parish of St John the Evangelist, Tadworth, are the beginning of that process.