

# Walking Together

## Synodal Update for the Diocese of Plymouth



### Welcome to the second of our Walking Together Updates

It has been great to see so many people participating in this journey of discernment and reflection. We have already received over 60 different contributions, which is wonderful. We would like to thank all those who have participated in or facilitated meetings and to wish you all a very peaceful and happy Christmas. If you have any questions, please contact [synodfeedback@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:synodfeedback@prcdtr.org.uk).

- Canon John Deeny and Deborah Fisher—Diocesan Co-Contacts

We have received quite a few queries about the Synodal journey and wanted to share some answers:

#### ***The term 'Synodal' is very confusing – what does it mean?***

Synodal comes from a Greek word meaning the 'walking together' (syn-) on a particular way (-hodos) This Synodal journey is a listening exercise to take place in every church across the world in preparation for the Synod of bishops in 2023. Pope Francis invites all of us, the People of God, to make a journey together. It is a journey of prayer and discernment. There are 3 phases to the journey: diocesan, continental and universal, culminating in the Synod in Rome. We are currently in the diocesan listening phase.

#### ***How are we reaching out to the young?***

We are reaching out to young people in a variety of ways. We have sent resources for our parish liturgy groups to use; materials have been provided to our schools for use during Advent; we have created some questions accessible to those who are not part of parishes or schools and which can be filled in through conversation, personal reflection, on paper or online.

**But we need your help.** The most important place for reaching out to young people is in our homes, parishes and communities. We hope you will share our questions to encourage conversation with young people about what they think and their dreams for the future. They can be accessed online

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/9MVCQ7M> or the QR code on this page

Holy Spirit, make Yourself at home in our hearts Holy Spirit, we are gathered in the name of Jesus.

As his gift to us, guide us; make Yourself at home in our hearts, our homes and churches.

You who fill the world, Holy Spirit, fill our minds and hearts. Show us the way you desire to renew the Church and give us courage to walk it.

Let us find our way to harmony and unity, truth and self-knowledge May we run the way together to a renewed and relevant church in the world and to eternal life.

Amen.

Sisters of St. Benedict in  
Winnipeg, Manitoba - Canada



The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.

## How is our journey

### going?

It is wonderful to see groups meeting across the Diocese as well as lovely contributions from children in our parishes (like the picture below). The map shows where you can find some of our over 100 facilitators.

So far we have received nearly 60 contributions from individuals, parishes and groups.

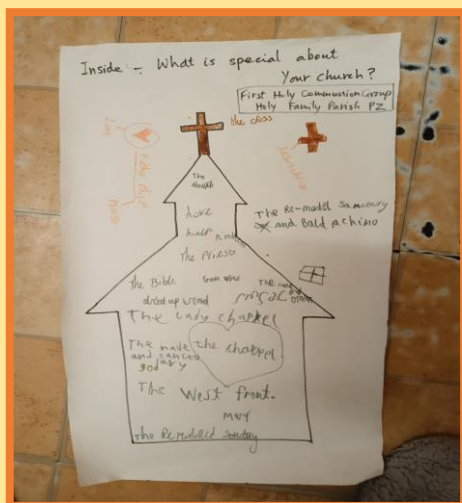


## What are we hearing and what will happen next?

It is too early to say what the key themes might be which emerge from this journey, but it has been encouraging to see the wide range of reflections from people of all ages coming through. There is still lots of time to share your thoughts and you can do so online <https://www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/walking-together-reflections/>

The synodal working group will be meeting on 22 January to review all the feedback sent through so far and to explore how that material can be presented to our pre-synodal meetings in February and March 2022 for prayer, reflection and discernment. The pre-synodal events will include a cross-representation of clergy and lay people from across the Diocese to reflect on what the Holy Spirit is saying to us about our Diocesan journey through the feedback gathered.

Any feedback sent through after the 22 January will also be part of our reflections. We want to take time to ensure all feedback is considered and included. Everything sent through will be collated into a report for our Diocese to reflect on what this journey says to us about how we are to grow and develop our 'walking together', and what steps we feel called to take. A Diocesan synthesis will be submitted to the Catholic Bishops' Conference in early April.



'listening to the young people in our parishes'.

