

Synod Working Group



Beginning the journeying together

synod@hallam-diocese.com

Adsumus Sancte Spiritus

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.

SWG 1

Timetable

- Introduction, Adsumus, goals for the meeting, record keeper
- Diocesan Groups for introductions and Synodal Scripture reflection: Prayer, Listening, Discernment
- Large group: the synodal process.
- Diocesan Groups for sharing ideas and plans
- Things to think about: Demographics, safeguarding, working group roles, formation, gathering the fruits, discernment
- Large group: timetable, date of Synod Formation Event, and SWG meetings



what is synod?

journeying together

How does this journeying together, which takes place today on different levels, from the local to the universal, allow us to proclaim the Gospel in accordance with the mission entrusted to us?

And what steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow as a synodal church?

Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means “son of Timaeus”), was sitting by the roadside begging. ⁴⁷When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

⁴⁸Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁹Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.” ⁵⁰Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

⁵¹“What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.”

⁵²“Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

Synodal Journey Timetable

April 2022 Close of Diocesan Phase

February 2022 Responses in to the CBCEW

January 2022 Responses in to synodresponse@hallam-diocese.com

October 2021 to January 6th 2022

- Formation,
- prayer, listening, discernment with participation communion and mission.
- responses

Types of synodal encounter

what I am called to, and how to record it

Formal, arranged for synod

- 1:1
- 1:3
- Small group facilitation
- Large group plus breakout groups

Types of encounter

Informal

- after mass,
- coffee mornings
- parish events
- ...

Structured encounters

in school

- simplified documents available on the website
- assemblies
- RE lessons
- Class retreats
- interest groups

Focussed

an encounter for the purpose of reflecting and responding to synod

- Synod Retreat
- Synod through Advent meetings
- Support groups already meeting

- Start with a way you feel comfortable using
- Trust in the Holy Spirit's guidance
- Pray, Listen, Discern
- Record together what you have heard
- Pass it on:

synodresponse@hallam-diocese.com



Facilitating Encounters in the synodal process

- Invite them to participate: e.g. “I would like to invite you to respond to the invitation from Pope Francis to let him know how the journey of the church is going and what he might need to know to help guide the church into the future.”
- Describe the nature of the encounter you are proposing: e.g. 1:1, 1:3/4; Small self-selected group; Large group with break-out groups, with plenary.
- Assure anonymity as far as possible (i.e. some responses might be identifiable by the context, but no names will be used)
- Clarify limits of confidentiality (be aware of the Diocesan safeguarding policy)

Facilitating Encounters in the synodal process

Ways of encouraging talking together: the encounter

- Ask if they would like to start with a prayer
- Start with the open question from Pope Francis: How is your journeying with the church going?
- Listen for the respondents understanding of the meaning of “Church” and prompt them to expand on broader ideas about what the church is; the institution, Catholics they know, media ideas, cultural pictures...
- Gentle prompts to expand on issues raised: “Can you say more about that?”; “Tell me more”
- Listen to the strongly felt, energetic aspects of the response and reflect these back to check you have heard accurately. Explore further if it seems OK to do so.

Facilitating encounters in the synodal

process Listening for the Holy Spirit

- Pause in your encounter, check if there is anything else to be shared.
- Move on to the second part of the question: “What do you believe is the way forward for the church (that you think the Holy Spirit is inspiring the church towards)?”

Facilitating Encounters in the synodal

process Ending the encounter

- Summarise what you have heard and agree it with your respondent
- End with a prayer if appropriate and thank them for their participation