
10 things to explore

1. The Journeying Companions

Who is in your journeying community? Who are on the peripheries who we need to reach out to? Who is no longer walking with us? How welcoming are we?

2. Listening

Do we listen to each other? Who listens to who? Do we listen 'heart to heart'? How do we listen to the signs of the times outside the Church and how do we respond?

3. Speaking Out

What is communication like in your group/parish/diocese? Can we speak out bravely and kindly in freedom, truth and charity? How am I living out my prophetic vocation given at baptism?

4. Celebrating

Does the liturgy inspire a deeper encounter with the Risen Lord? Does my prayer draw me on to participation in the mission of the Church?

5. Co-responsibility in the Mission

What do I understand as my mission in my life, in the local Church, in the universal church? What formation do I need to do this? What impact is our local community making in the area and are we helping?

6. Dialogue in Church and Society

What dialogue do we have in and outside of the Church? How can we begin to dialogue with others? How do we address the challenges of dialogue?

7. Relationship with other Christians

What is our relationship with other Christians like? Do we listen to each other and enrich each other?

8. Authority and Participation

How is authority exercised in our communities? How do we share in this by virtue of our baptismal consecration as prophets, priests and kings? What are the fruits and what are the challenges?

9. Discerning and Deciding

How do we discern together the direction in which the Holy Spirit is leading us? Is there freedom to exercise our particular ministry in the Church and participate in this common work of discernment and decision making? Is my local community accountable and transparent in decision making? What can help improve this? Do I support the Bishops and Priests in arriving at their decisions?

10. Forming ourselves in synodality

What additional formation do I need to be a missionary disciple? Is the local community effective in catechising and passing on the faith? What tools are necessary for the Church to be truly Synodal, listening and journeying together? How do we continue the listening and dialogue beyond this process so that the Church have a "lived synodality" as the Holy Father asks?



A synodal Church is one which “journeys together”.

How does this “journeying together,” take place today on different levels (from the local to the universal one), allowing the Church to proclaim the Gospel and what steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow as a synodal Church?

Suggested tools for reflecting, sharing and responding to the questions of the Synod

This leaflet gives some suggestions for the Hallam Diocesan phase of the Synod on ways in which you might get together to talk and listen.

Find out more at hallam-diocese.com/synod/

Narrative Approach

Telling or writing one's own faith story and journey with the Church

One's Life Story

Invite people to tell their story, their view of faith, the way they have sought to take their place in the Church.

A text that drives changes

Invite a small group to write a joint text; then other groups react to this text and comment on it from their own lives.

Finding the right words

Invite people to say what the Church evokes in them or to name the words that designate what it takes to "walk together with Jesus", what might be the opposite and explain their choices. The group can then choose the words that most convey the group's message.

Using images and artistic creation

Communicating through images

Presented with various images, people are invited to find those that best capture what walking together in the Church means to them. Share why. On the basis of this sharing, a joint text can be written.

An individual or shared artistic creation

Invite people to draw an image of the Church in which they walk together and comment on their drawing. Or make an artistic creation together as a way of visually representing the church and their place in it. Share about what has been created and gather the comments.

Writing together

Invite people to write a story, a poem, a prayer, a psalm or a song about walking together with Jesus or walking together as a Church. Rewrite a scripture passage from the Gospels, or Acts of the Apostles. Reflect on this together.

Acting it out

Invite a group to enact or write a short play that expresses what it means to "walk together" in the Church, why it is difficult, why it is important. Reflect on the process and what you have learned together from it.