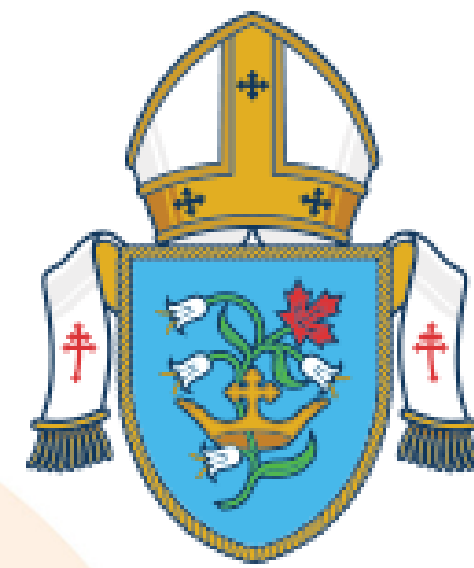




For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission



ARCHDIOCESE
of
KINGSTON

SYNODAL PARISH TOOLKIT



GET INSPIRED
GET CREATIVE

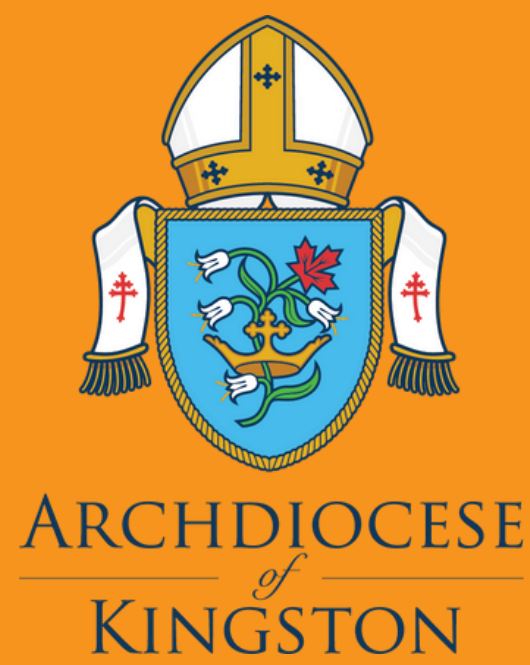
Listening Church

Our Holy Father Pope Francis has invited the Catholic Church to embark on a journey together. Through listening and discernment rooted in the Holy Spirit, the entire people of God will be called to contribute to a process by which the Church deepens her understanding of the mission and looks toward the future.

A Synod, which is the process by which the Church will begin this important work, is not just a convening of Bishops reflecting on a particular topic and advising the Pope. A Synod is a journey of discernment, in which the people of God are called to pray and reflect upon the Holy Spirit's will for the Church. Through our listening and our sharing, we will seek to understand what the Holy Spirit's will is for the topic being discussed – and thus, for the Church.

For the 2023 Ordinary Synod of Bishops, that topic is synodality. Simply put, synodality is discerning how the Spirit is moving through and with the Body of Christ, so that we may continue to fulfill our mission to evangelize in the world.





L I S T E N I N G
D I S C E R N M E N T
J O U R N E Y
M I S S I O N
F U T U R E
S H A R I N G
C R E A T I V I T Y
C O M M U N I O N
A U T H E N T I C I T Y



For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission



Synod
2021
2023

For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

Prayer for the Synod

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.





Connect Engage Inspire

ARCHBISHOP MULHALL AND THE
ARCHDIOCESEAN SYNOD TEAM INVITE
YOU TO CONNECT WITH OTHERS AND
ENCOURAGE THEM TO SHARE THEIR
STORY! WHAT IS THEIR EXPERIENCE
OF THE CHURCH? DO THEY FEEL
CONNECTED TO THE CHURCH?

THEY MAY SHARE THEIR STORY AND
VOICE IN A FEW WAYS:

- Online survey on our website beginning January 3rd, 2022.
- Participate in or facilitate a discussion using our Archdiocesan questions. Please have a scribe or note taker available to record the major themes of the conversation for submission to our synod team via the group feedback survey on our website or by emailing notes to the synod coordinator: synod@romancatholic.kingston.on.ca.
- If you have another idea of how you may dialogue and hear the voices of others in your setting, please use these questions as a framework and share your notes with us: synod@romancatholic.kingston.on.ca.
- If you need help brainstorming how to reach people in your parish given your unique local circumstances please don't hesitate to contact us!

Archdiocesan Questions

1

COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY

Who has Christ sent to encourage and support you in your life, in your faith, in your parish and in Church?

2

LISTENING

How do we hear the voice of Christ in the Church? How do we hear Him on the edges of our communities?

3

SPEAKING OUT

What enables or hinders us in hearing the voices of others in our parish communities and in our Church?

4

CELEBRATION

How do Mass and communal prayer inspire and strengthen you? For your decisions? Prepare us for our mission in the world?

5

SHARING RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR COMMON MISSION

What is the mission of the Church? How is this realised in your parish and in the archdiocese? How do you fit into this mission?

6

DIALOGUE IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY

What particular issues in the Church and society need conversion in the light of the Gospel?

7

ECUMENISM

What might build up a closer communion with our brothers and sisters of other Christian traditions?

8

AUTHORITY AND PARTICIPATION

How does the Church support, encourage and serve our participation in its life and mission?

9

DISCERNING AND DECIDING

How do we, as individuals, as parishes and as an archdiocese, discern and make decisions in the light of the Gospel?

10

FORMING OURSELVES IN SYNODALITY

How does listening to Christ prompt us to hear one another, encourage us to participate in mission and help us to reflect Him to those we encounter?



GOOD PRACTICES TO MAXIMIZE THIS EXPERIENCE

- Listening is key
- Meet people where they are at
- All are welcome to share their voice
- Receive negative feedback without judgment
- The listening process is more important than "answering questions"
- Provide questions one to two weeks in advance to participants for prayerful consideration

Listening (Preparatory Document, no. 26, 30; Vademecum nos. 1.5, 5.3)

- The synodal process necessitates that we, as the People of God, first listen with an open heart and open mind to where the Spirit is calling us and discern to whom we are needing to listen and what steps need to be taken to more fully live out our mission.
- Lived synodality is only possible through the approach of a listening Church, open to gathering and reflecting on the lived experiences of all its members, including making space for those often excluded and discarded: women, youth, victims of sexual abuse, and the poor and vulnerable.

EXAMPLE AGENDA #1 FOR PARISH LISTENING SESSION

This agenda is for a parish listening session held over one meeting.

Parishioners are given the Synodal question(s) two weeks prior to meeting. Not all ten questions have to be tackled by each group.

- 1 Welcome & Introduction (include Ground Rules)
- 2 Synod Prayer & Time for Prayer/Worship/Scripture
- 3 Facilitator should make some brief comments (*perhaps by using one of the videos on the archdiocesan synod website or facilitator slide deck*) sharing with the group "What the Synod on Synodality is, and why is it important?"
- 4 Share the goal of this synod: a special time of prayer, listening, dialogue, and recommendations for our Church
 - This is your opportunity to respond to the request from Pope Francis to "*dream about the Church we are called to be*".
 - By gathering and listening, we hope to weave new and deeper relationships; to learn from one another; to build bridges; to enlighten minds; to warm hearts, and to restore strength for our common mission.
- 5 Before concluding, summarize the major themes of the discussion
 - By the end of our time together we aim to capture, through the archdiocesan questions, your answers to the basic question: How is the church journeying together? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our 'journeying together'?
- 6 Thank participants for sharing their voices
- 7 Closing prayer - spontaneous or prepared
- 8 Group facilitator or coordinator completes the online group feedback survey on our synod website or submits notes to synod coordinator at synod@romancatholic.kingston.on.ca

EXAMPLE AGENDA #2 FOR PARISH LISTENING SESSION

This agenda is for a parish listening session held over two meetings.

Parishioners are given the Synodal question(s) two weeks prior to meeting. Not all ten questions have to be tackled by each group.

MEETING 1

- 1 Welcome & Introduction
 - Group Facilitator goes over the ground rules (taken or adapted from the Leadership Roundtable's "Process for Facilitating Synodal Consultations").
- 2 Lectio Divina
 - Lead the gathered group in a time of prayer with one of the following readings:
 - a. Jesus calls Peter (Luke 5: 1-11)
 - b. Mission of the 72 (Luke 10: 1-12)
 - c. The Parable of the Sower (Matt 13: 1-9)
 - d. Jesus sends out the twelve (Matt 10: 1-14)
- 3 Each participant shares what struck them about the reading, while others listen to how the Holy Spirit is moving within the person sharing and within themselves
- 4 A time of silence to reflect on the sharing
- 5 Participants share what struck them most during the sharing time
- 6 Thank participants and close with prayer

MEETING 2

- 1 Welcome & Introduction
 - Remind participants of the ground rules
- 2 Short Meditation and Synodal prayer
- 3 Facilitator reads over first question. Each participant responds to the question, while others in the group listen deeply. Participants are encouraged to share openly and honestly about their real-life experience.
- 4 Time of silence to note how the Holy Spirit is moving in our hearts and in the discussion
- 5 Participants share where the Holy Spirit is working in the conversation. What new and refreshing insights might have been discovered? What are the opportunities for change, the steps to be taken? What does this mean for our parish and diocese?
- 6 Facilitator reads the second question and the process is continued until all questions selected by the parish are completed
- 7 Before concluding, summarize the major themes of the session
- 8 Thank participants and close with prayer
- 9 Group facilitator or coordinator submits notes/feedback online via our synod website or to synod coordinator at synod@romancatholic.kingston.on.ca

Walk together as a Church with the Holy Spirit

The purpose of the Synod is
"to plant dreams", to "journey together"
following the course of the Church in
the third millennium with a truly
synodal mentality.

Join us!



ARCHDIOCESE
of
KINGSTON



Synod
2021
2023

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