

The next phase of Synod preparation asks you to read the pages covering two of the four Synod themes; pray and reflect upon them

and then choose from each theme, only **two affirmations (in blue type) and only **five proposals** , *that you feel most drawn to, from each theme.***

So, by the end give a 'tick' to **four affirmation and **ten proposals** in total and please return the form & place in the box at the back of Church**

OR highlight your choices, perhaps in different coloured type, or add 'YES'

& send back to parish e-mail address sjsl@rcaol.org.uk

Theme 1: All called and gifted by God

Councils and Synodality

The Synod affirms the value of collaborative and synodal leadership within our communities and the widely held desire that synodality be lived at every level of local governance.

1.1 The Synod proposes that, for transparent and collective decision making to be enabled, parish pastoral councils be established in each parish with clear terms of reference as given by Archbishop Malcolm.

1.2 The Synod proposes that clear roles are established for lay people so that, regarding decision making and development of parish life, neither the burden nor the responsibility falls to the priest alone.

1.3 The Synod proposes that pastoral area forums, involving a diversity of participants, are established in order to inspire and inform effective collaboration and strategic decision making in pastoral areas.

1.4 The Synod proposes that, in the light of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, an ongoing review be established to see what lessons must be learned.

1.5 The Synod proposes that Synod 2020 should be cancelled.

Governance

The Synod affirms the concern of the people of the Archdiocese that governance at local and diocesan level be accountable, transparent, and inclusive.

1.6 The Synod proposes that, at all levels of governance, those with the responsibility of decision making do so in an open, honest, and transparent way that consults and respects the views of affected communities.

1.7 The Synod proposes that, at all levels of governance, good stewardship of finances must include accountability to the People of God.

1.8 The Synod proposes that structures of governance are constituted in a way that reflects and represents the diversity of the People of God.

Inclusivity

The Synod affirms the outpouring of love and compassion for those who feel marginalised or excluded from the Church.

1.9 The Synod proposes that we work to remove the physical, linguistic, emotional and cultural barriers that prevent people from fully living their baptismal vocation by developing training programmes to combat unconscious bias within structures and communities.

Lay Ministry

The Synod affirms the value of lay ministers in serving, supporting, challenging, strengthening, and empowering local communities.

1.10 The Synod proposes that parish and pastoral area communities should be able to benefit from professional lay ministers (including but not restricted to pastoral associates and youth workers) working in collaboration with clergy and volunteers to support the vocation of all the baptised.

1.11 The Synod proposes that the giftedness of all the faithful is recognised, valued, nurtured, and given opportunity to flourish within governance structures, formation initiatives, and leadership roles.

1.12 The Synod proposes that the Archbishop appoint suitably trained and commissioned lay people to administer the Sacrament of Baptism when the need arises.

Formation

The Synod affirms the need for good and accessible programmes of adult faith formation.

1.13 The Synod proposes that adult faith formation in the Archdiocese focuses on the development of good quality resources that meet local needs and are easily adaptable to particular circumstances.

1.14 The Synod proposes that adult faith formation opportunities are provided to help adults to grow in their own faith. In the light of our COVID-19 experiences, we must not underestimate the value of online formation.

1.15 The Synod proposes that adult faith formation focuses on the training of trainers to deliver the formation locally.

1.16 The Synod proposes that increased resources be allocated to young adult ministry and pastoral formation for those in the 18-30 age group.

Women

The Synod affirms the invaluable contribution of women to the life and mission of the Church and recognises that many feel this contribution is not sufficiently valued.

1.17 The Synod proposes that the Archdiocese initiate a process that ensures women are equal, valued, visible and heard.

Young People

The Synod affirms that the people of the Archdiocese find joy when children and young people are visible and active in our worshipping communities. We yearn to be a place where more young people find belonging, meaning, and purpose.

1.18 The Synod proposes that the Archdiocese works to understand and challenge the linguistic, emotional, and cultural barriers that prevent young people from full participation.

1.19 The Synod proposes that reflection is needed on the needs of young people in our communities in order to develop an appropriate response.

1.20 The Synod proposes that schools and parishes work to find creative and accessible ways in which young people have an active voice in the synodal structures of our parishes and pastoral areas.

Vocation

The Synod affirms that by virtue of our baptism all are called and gifted and that God has a purpose for each of us.

1.21 The Synod proposes that the lay vocation is truly valued and that the voice of lay people is heard in a more structured way.

1.22 The Synod proposes that the Archdiocese commits to the promotion of the vocation of all the baptised and a culture of discernment of specific callings within that.

Clergy Formation

The Synod affirms that there is a great love, appreciation, and valuing of priests, deacons, and seminarians of the Archdiocese who continue to generously respond to God's call.

1.23 The Synod proposes that there is a more open, transparent, and accountable process for selecting candidates for seminary that seeks and respects informed views from the People of God.

1.24 The Synod proposes that seminary training takes place within the Archdiocese with studies being undertaken at local universities and seminarians living in local houses of formation.

1.25 The Synod proposes that a robust programme of ongoing formation is developed for the wellbeing of priests and deacons, that meets their spiritual, intellectual, practical, and mental health needs.

1.26 The Synod proposes that a regular review of ministry for each bishop, priest and deacon is put in place as an integral part of on-going formation and accountability.

1.27 The Synod proposes that priests live in community for their care and support.

Safeguarding

The Synod affirms that keeping children and vulnerable adults safe from harm and being a safe haven for those who may be vulnerable are key concerns for the people of the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

1.28 The Synod proposes that “Safeguarding” is a standing agenda item at every parish council meeting and that the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Team lead on informing what key thematic issues need to be considered during a year.

Local Collaboration

The Synod affirms that there is a need for parishes to support one another as communities of faith and share good practice.

1.29 The Synod proposes that pastoral areas develop and implement strategies for more effective communication and collaboration between parishes including the sharing of resources and good practice.

Schools and Education

The Synod affirms the privileged position and valuable role our Catholic schools have in the faith development and vocational discernment of our young people.

1.30 The Synod proposes that lay chaplaincy within our schools is strengthened and promoted with a clear and well-defined career path, pay scale, and development structure that supports the recruitment and retention of qualified, enthusiastic, and experienced people.

1.31 The Synod proposes that innovative ways be found to create links between school and parish and that this collaboration is appropriately supported.

1.32 The Synod proposes a thorough review of the RE syllabus.

1.33 The Synod proposes a review takes place of what it means to be a Catholic school particularly in reference to staffing.

Buildings

The Synod affirms that there is a great concern that some of our buildings are underused, empty, or neglected and that these resources could be better used in serving the needs of the People of God.

1.34 The Synod proposes that pastoral area communities are supported, encouraged, and empowered by the Archdiocese to reflect on their needs and the needs of their wider community to inform the appropriate use of buildings.

Theme 2: Sharing the mission of Jesus

Evangelisation

The Synod affirms that we are passionate about sharing with all people the Good News of the saving power of Jesus.

2.1 The Synod proposes that the Archdiocese develop a new framework for evangelisation to include (but not restricted to) a bespoke Archdiocesan course for evangelisation and to ensure that our preparation and celebration of sacraments makes the most of the opportunity to evangelise.

2.2 The Synod proposes that each parish, in collaboration with neighbouring parishes, undertakes an annual programme of evangelisation/mission.

2.3 The Synod proposes that there is a review and reform of the catechetical processes of the Archdiocese to better suit the faith development needs of our age.

2.4 In the light of COVID-19 we have discovered a new depth of what Eucharist means. The Synod proposes that programmes of sacramental formation are adapted to reflect this.

Mission

The Synod affirms that mission must be central in our understanding of the Church that God is calling us to be.

2.5 The Synod proposes that the Archdiocese heed the call of Pope Francis to be brave and courageous in renewing structures so that they are at the service of mission rather than self-preservation.

2.6 The Synod proposes that there should be a review and reconfiguration of the pastoral area structure.

Formation

The Synod affirms the value of formation so that people are able to play their part in the mission of evangelisation.

2.7 The Synod proposes that the Archdiocese reviews how it offers formation and Catholic teaching for life, from the cradle to the grave.

2.8 The Synod proposes that the Archdiocese provides opportunities for conversations about aspects of church teaching that some people find difficult.

2.9 In the light of the Archdiocese becoming increasingly multicultural and ethnically diverse the Synod proposes that this is reflected in the way religious education and formation is delivered.

Catholic Social Teaching

The Synod affirms the value of the rich tradition of Catholic Social Teaching and the call for this to be lived more fully in the day-to-day life of the Archdiocese.

2.10 The Synod proposes that, in order to form the faithful for practical action, resources are developed that allow Catholic Social Teaching to be an integral part of formation, catechesis and homilies.

Care of Creation

The Synod affirms the clear teachings from successive popes and the prophetic voice of our young people calling us to put care for creation at the forefront of our mission.

2.11 The Synod proposes that the Archdiocese and all its parishes become Live Simply communities.

2.12 The Synod proposes that the Archdiocese works towards a renewed understanding of Laudato Si'.

2.13 The Synod proposes that every school and parish community develop and implement a five, ten and fifteen year environmental plan based on the principles of Laudato Si'.

2.14 The Synod proposes that care for creation should be a standing item on parish council agendas.

Love of Neighbour

The Synod affirms that we are moved with compassion by the suffering of the poor, weak, marginalised, lonely, and vulnerable in our society.

2.15 The Synod proposes that pastoral areas or clusters of parishes work together to reflect on the needs of the communities they serve, the support available and effective responses.

2.16 The Synod proposes that, following on from lessons learnt and the experiences lived at the time of the pandemic, the parishes of the Archdiocese should always be at the forefront of reaching out to those in most need.

2.17 The Synod proposes that every parish be committed to having some form of social welfare group or action.

2.18 The Synod proposes a more strategic approach to charitable giving and fundraising with each pastoral area selecting a charitable cause to support each year.

2.19 The Synod proposes that we find ways, at Archdiocesan, parish, and individual level, to humbly and honestly look at racism in the Church.

Use of Resources

The Synod affirms that in the Archdiocese of Liverpool there is a wealth of resources available and that these are most valuable when shared for the benefit of all.

2.20 The Synod proposes that, within some of the large pastoral areas, clusters of parishes are established in order to share skills, resources, and best practice.

2.21 The Synod proposes that, when the temptation to focus on local needs is great, we never forget the greater needs elsewhere.

Use of Buildings

The Synod affirms that our buildings are a huge resource that are, in places, underused and should be used more flexibly in service of mission and evangelisation.

2.22 The Synod proposes that the Archdiocese, in collaboration with local communities and ecumenical partners, undertake a systematic and innovative review of the buildings we have in our parishes with a view to their better use to serve the mission of the Church.

Communication

The Synod affirms the power and opportunities of new communications technology to enrich our mission of evangelisation.

2.23 The Synod proposes that the Archdiocese develops a new communication and media strategy that enables people to learn, be informed, communicate and evangelise.

2.24 In the light of COVID-19 people have discovered the power of creative online ministry. The Synod proposes that a working party of priests and laity is established to further develop creative online ministries for our Archdiocese.

Children & Young People

The Synod affirms children and young people as valued members of the community.

2.25 The Synod proposes that there are regular, well-advertised opportunities for worship, service and socialising for young people across pastoral areas.

Schools

The Synod affirms that schools can be an important tool in evangelisation but recognises that many are concerned that they are not always effective in handing on the faith.

2.26 The Synod proposes that the links between schools and parishes are strengthened to better serve the mission of the Church.

2.27 The Synod proposes that the Archdiocese review the teaching of the Catholic Faith in our schools.

Groups and Societies

The Synod affirms the great value that many people find in groups and sodalities within the Church.

2.28 The Synod proposes that in each pastoral area there be opportunities available to belong to small groups for formation, prayer, socialising and action.

TWO more 'themes' and choices to follow next week!!