

Synod 2020
Summary of Proposals

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 3: How we pray together

Opportunities for Prayer

The Synod affirms the variety of opportunities for prayer that exist and need to be developed.

3.1 The Synod proposes that each parish provides opportunities outside the celebration of Mass for people to gather in prayer.

3.2 The Synod proposes that we are proactive in using opportunities for ecumenical and interfaith prayer, action, and formation.

3.3 The Synod proposes that traditional devotions, which have nurtured people in ages past, be renewed for our age.

Liturgy

The Synod affirms the legitimate variety of liturgical styles in our Catholic tradition.

3.4 The Synod proposes that across the Archdiocese there is access to a variety of liturgical styles and celebrations.

3.5 The Synod proposes that the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite be more widely available.

3.6 The Synod proposes that we use the opportunities the liturgy provides for silence.

3.7 The Synod proposes that resources be found to promote good liturgical music.

3.8 The Synod proposes that more value be placed on the need for beauty in our liturgy, in the way it is celebrated and in the liturgical environment.

3.9 The Synod proposes that the Archbishop asks the Bishops' Conference to review the current translation of the Roman Missal.

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Liturgical Formation

[The Synod affirms the need for good liturgical formation for all.](#)

3.10 The Synod proposes that there be developed an Archdiocesan programme of liturgical formation for all the People of God.

3.11 The Synod proposes that we develop our appreciation of the importance of celebrating Mass well.

Spiritual Formation

[The Synod affirms the importance of spiritual formation and accompaniment at each stage of the faith journey.](#)

3.12 The Synod proposes the creation of a Spirituality Department in the Archdiocese which provides resources to serve the needs of parishes.

3.13 In the light of COVID-19, people have a renewed understanding that the Church is the people not the buildings. The Synod recognises that home is a holy place and proposes that resources are provided to support and develop the domestic Church.

3.14 The Synod proposes that an annual retreat is offered in each pastoral area.

3.15 The Synod proposes that in order to train and support spiritual directors we work in collaboration with the Anglican Diocese of Liverpool in their programme of spiritual direction and accompaniment.

Lay Ministry

[The Synod affirms the variety of roles and ministries in the celebration of liturgy.](#)

3.16 The Synod proposes that the gifts of lay people be used more fully in the celebration of the liturgy.

3.17 The Synod proposes that the use of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion be restricted to cases of actual necessity.

3.18 The Synod proposes that Services of the Word and Communion be reserved for Sunday in the absence of a priest.

3.19 The Synod proposes that on weekdays, when Mass is not celebrated, a variety of services should be provided, e.g. Divine Office, Rosary and novenas.

The Role of the Celebrant

[The Synod affirms that a well-prepared celebrant is crucial for good liturgical celebrations.](#)

3.20 The Synod proposes that a systematic programme of liturgical formation be developed for all celebrants.

3.21 The Synod proposes that because of the importance of the homily in the liturgy a programme of on-going formation in preaching for priests and deacons be developed.

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Local Collaboration

The Synod affirms that parishes collaborate with each other as no one parish can meet every need.

3.22 The Synod proposes that in each area there should be a Shrine Church which will become a hub for the daily celebration of Mass and confession and will be open all day, every day.

3.23 The Synod proposes that, by collaborating in local clusters, parishes will work imaginatively in sharing resources and in providing a widespread of times for Mass and other services.

3.24 The Synod proposes that when a priest is on holiday Mass is not celebrated in the Church(es) where he normally celebrates Mass.

Reconciliation

The Synod affirms the importance of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the life of every baptised person and recognises that many Catholics rarely or never celebrate this sacrament.

3.25 The Synod proposes that we are creative in how we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

3.26 The Synod proposes that the Archdiocese develops a programme of formation for adults and children for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The Sick and the Housebound

The Synod affirms that the sick and the housebound can be a powerhouse of prayer within our parishes.

3.27 The Synod proposes that ways be found to support and value the sick and the housebound as praying members of our communities.

Schools and Young People

The Synod affirms the place of schools in the prayer life of the parish community.

3.28 The Synod recognises that all schools are privileged places for the teaching of prayer and proposes that they be supported in this ministry.

3.29 The Synod proposes that parishes find ways to involve the gifts of young people in liturgical celebration.

Communications

The Synod affirms that effective communication can be an opportunity to deepen the prayer life of people.

3.30 The Synod proposes that the opportunities afforded by social media are effectively utilised and all parishes are supported in producing and maintaining their digital profile.

3.31 The Synod proposes the development of an effective communications strategy at the service of prayer and mission.

3.32 The Synod proposes that the Archdiocese supports every parish in providing live streaming of liturgy.

Theme 4: Building community, nurturing belonging

Welcome and Inclusivity

The Synod affirms the principle that churches and parishes are places of welcome and inclusion and that by welcoming a diversity of people we will be enriched by their gifts.

4.1 The Synod proposes that emphasis should be placed on making our churches and parishes welcoming and inclusive, that parishioners need training in the Ministry of Welcome and that the welcome we give must be inclusive of all.

4.2 The Synod proposes that all our buildings be reviewed to ensure that they are accessible and equipped for a range of needs.

4.3 The Synod proposes that an Archdiocesan ministry to the LGBTQI community be developed.

Parish

The Synod affirms that the parish as a structure has the potential to adapt to the needs of our times.

4.4 The Synod proposes that deacons and/or lay people be given a share in the pastoral care of some parishes under the direction of an appointed priest.

4.5 The Synod proposes that parishes exercise proper, transparent and honest stewardship and accountability.

4.6 The Synod proposes that a review be undertaken to see how our buildings can be used to more effectively support community life.

4.7 The Synod proposes that episcopal visitations be developed as the opportunity to promote and monitor pastoral planning and its implementation.

4.8 The Synod proposes that parishes find a way to keep up-to-date records of parishioners in order to be able to reach out in times of need.

4.9 The Synod proposes that, in the light of what we have learned through COVID-19, each parish develops an emergency response plan.

Schools

The Synod affirms that Catholic schools are a great resource but do not always achieve their potential in handing on the Catholic Faith.

4.10 The Synod proposes that the whole Catholic community be invited to share in developing a renewed understanding of what Catholic schools are about and what a Catholic education is.

4.11 The Synod proposes that there be more collaboration and interaction to enable the strengthening of the home/school/parish partnership by using innovative ways of sharing faith, sharing gifts and resources and enabling joint projects.

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Children and Young People

The Synod affirms the valuable work being done in some places in developing the faith of young people.

4.12 The Synod proposes that new ways of enabling parents to hand on faith to their children be established, recognising the many challenges this presents.

4.13 The Synod proposes further development of peer to peer youth ministry as a way of affirming young people as valued members of the church.

Outreach

The Synod affirms the importance of each parish forging strong links with those who are sick, lonely, isolated, or marginalised.

4.14 The Synod proposes prioritising the needs of those who feel on the margins of society.

4.15 The Synod proposes that each parish develops its ministry to the elderly, the sick, the housebound and the lonely.

Community Building

The Synod affirms the variety of ways in which people express their belonging to the Catholic community, including pilgrimages, outings, membership of groups and social activities.

4.16 The Synod proposes that opportunities to belong to supportive and formative small groups, such as family groups and sodalities, be developed so that they become the essential building blocks of parishes.

4.17 The Synod proposes that ways of developing our sense of belonging and community should be part of the regular activities of every parish.

4.18 The Synod proposes that each pastoral area should adopt a charity or project for a specific period of time that enables all members of the community to be involved.

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Ecumenism

The Synod affirms that ecumenical dialogue and activity is essential for the Catholic community.

4.19 The Synod proposes that our parishes turn outwards, joining with other churches, faith communities, charities, and other organisations to serve the local community.

4.20 The Synod proposes that we engage with renewed enthusiasm in the ecumenical journey at every level.

Local/Pastoral Area Organisation

The Synod affirms that structures are at the service of the mission of the church.

4.21 The Synod proposes that the Archdiocese should review the numbers and locations of churches required for its mission.

4.22 The Synod proposes that pastoral area boundaries be reviewed.

4.23 The Synod proposes that small clusters of parishes be encouraged to enable more effective working together.

Communication

The Synod affirms the importance of effective communication.

4.24 The Synod proposes that the Archdiocese should provide support to all parishes in the use of technologies for communication and for outreach.

4.25 The Synod proposes that a new Communications Department be created to facilitate and promote the use of both traditional and modern media towards more effective communication, evangelisation, and outreach.

4.26 The Synod proposes that, in developing future communication strategies, consideration is given to those who are unable to access online provision.