



Synod – The way forward Together

What is the Synod

Pope Francis has invited the global church to a conversation about the future, and to share stories of our reality right now. We are called to dream dreams together, and he wants everyone's voice to count. The conversations we are having now are also going on all around the world, and all the findings will be discussed at a diocesan meeting next year (2022), followed by a written submission by the diocese.

As a result of the Holy Father's request we will be holding gatherings in the parish to ask all parishioners to express their views on this subject. The gatherings will be held in St Mary's parish centre and St Margaret's Chapel.

Our Parish listening gatherings

To help with our responses we are focusing on four questions which will guide us.

Our reflection questions are:

1. What is it like for me being a Catholic today?
2. What are your experiences of the Church doing something well?
3. What are your experiences of the Church when things have not gone well?
4. What are our dreams for the church?

Gatherings will be guided by parish listeners.

There are a number of opportunities for you to participate:

After Holy Mass on Sundays in January / February

These sessions will last about 50 minutes and will reflect only on one / two of the four questions each week over a three week period

Evening Sessions throughout January

These will be on Zoom to help those unable to attend sessions during the day.

These sessions will last about 40 minutes and will reflect only on one / two of the four questions each week over a three week period

Half day sessions in January

These sessions will be held on a Friday / Saturday and will last about 4 hours. All four questions will be covered in these prayerful and reflective gatherings

To attend a session please email

(stmarysrcmiddlewich@gmail.com) with the date/s you wish to attend from the table below :

Location Session type	St Mary's	St Marys	St Margaret's	St Margaret's
Half Day	8 th Jan	22 nd Jan	14 th Jan*	28 th Jan
Evening Zoom	26 th Jan	5 th Jan	27 th Jan	6 th Jan
Evening Zoom	2 nd Feb	12 th Jan	3 rd Feb	13 th Jan
Evening Zoom	9 th Feb	19 th Jan	10 th Feb	20 th Jan
After Mass	2 nd Jan	23 rd Jan	2 nd Jan	23 rd Jan
After Mass	9 th Jan	30 th Jan	9 th Jan	30 th Jan
After Mass	16 th Jan	6 th Feb	16 th Jan	6 th Feb

All those who register to attend a session will receive a confirmation email with a full explanation of the session and the reflection questions to complete.

The responses from all gatherings will be compiled anonymously and included in our submission to the diocese for inclusion in the diocesan document for Rome.

For those parishioners who are unable or unwilling to attend a gathering, you can download the participants sheet by clicking on the link below:

(Download link for participants sheet)

Completed sheets should then be forwarded to

Stmarysmiddlewichsynod@gmail.com

Note: All completed questionnaires will be anonymised prior to being included in the parish feedback.

For those who are sick or house-bound

If you are unable to attend sessions in person or via Zoom and would like to discuss the questions informally, a visit by a listener and Eucharistic minister can be arranged.

Just email or call and we will arrange a visit for you.

Email: (stmarysrcmiddlewich@gmail.com)

Telephone: 01606 -832359

If you prefer you can download a participant's sheet using the link above.

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

Our Parish Synod Timetable

From 24th October to the
end of November

Information gathering,
formation and communication
phase



- Prayers for our parish synod - **Communion**



- Identification and formation of our Parish Listeners

December 2021 to the
end of January 2022

Our Listening
phase



- Listening opportunities happening throughout the parish - **Participation**

February 2022

Synthesis
phase



- Bringing together the results of our listening. Preparing our submission for the Diocese and reflecting our what we can do as a parish

March – April 2022

Discernment and writing
phase



- Putting our parish plan into action.
Communion, Participation, Mission

The practice of living as a Synodal Church means:

- The conversations lead to conversion to Christ and commitment to active participation in the mission given by Christ — **Communion**
- The people of God talk with one another and listen to one another about questions that matter — **Participation**
- The communion exists for a common purpose; mission flows naturally from the experience of communion — **Mission.**

