

St John Ogilvie's Parish

Synod – A Shared Journey

In mid- December 2021 we sent out a questionnaire, and covering letter, about the worldwide Synod launched by Pope Francis. The questionnaire was designed as a guide to help us reflect on how each of us would like to see our Church develop and grow, both at local level and in a wider context. It is important to Pope Francis that each of us, as followers of Jesus within the Catholic Church, have the opportunity to be heard. The areas we are asked to consider are;

Communion

Participation

Mission

As we all have been called by God according to His purpose, the covid-19 pandemic has opened our eyes to see that one person's problem can become the problems of us all. So, let us see the Synod as a gift first and also a task. Let us, therefore, reflect prayerfully and contribute as much as we can by putting forward in writing anything we desire to see the church embrace in our journey together with Christ through this Synod. We can then reflect on such things together as a parish.

We have taken a few questions from the original questionnaire, and we offer some thoughts to help us consider ways in which we might build up our Church.

Theme 1 – Communion and Participation

What would my meaningful participation in the parish look like?

There are many areas where parishioners volunteer in our parish. Examples are; Reading at Mass - Altar Servers – Preparing Liturgy – Parish Council – Welcoming Team - Eucharistic Ministry - Justice & Peace Group - Children's Liturgy - Children's Sacramental Programme. Is there a role for you in any of these areas? Is there an area, not shown above, where you would be interested in helping form a group? What training or support would you need to become involved?

How can we support and encourage vocations to the priesthood and religious life?

Would I support women priests, married priests, more lay participants as deacons, leading services where a priest is not available? Should we be looking at how other churches support vocations?

Theme 2 - Mission

How can we reach out to those who don't feel welcome or who no longer feel connected to the Church, or to Jesus Christ?

How is our welcome and hospitality when people visit? How could we be a presence in local places outside of our church building? Can we speak of the grace and blessings of God to others? If not, what might help us to build confidence to share our story – or God's story?

How can our parish be a light for our local community, to share with others the love of Jesus and His saving truth?

Could we have more constructive co-operation with other Christian Churches? Could there be more recognition of, and dialogue with, sincere people of other faiths? Should we be in closer dialogue with the WHEC (Wester Hailes Education Centre)? How might we reach out to any international community in our area?

What kind of Parish could we be and what do we need to do to get there?

Feedback

The original questionnaire and covering letter can be found through the parish website www.st-john-ogilvie.org.uk. You can complete the questionnaire, choose to answer only the questions that seem most important to you, or simply let us know your thoughts in an email st.jh.ogilvie@blueyonder.co.uk or by handing in a sheet of paper. **Please reply by 6 February.** Your feedback will form the basis of our parish gatherings.

Parish Gathering

This will be held either on Wed 23 Feb at 7.00pm or on Saturday 26 Feb at 2.00pm. Please let us know your preference in your feedback. Any pandemic restrictions will be taken into account.

With blessings.

Trish Middlemist

Michael Ayanbowale

Joe McGeough

20/1/22