

Hosting a simple one-to-one or group listening conversation

The Synod is a participative and inclusive **process of listening and discerning** that offers everyone—within and beyond the worshipping Catholic community—the opportunity to express themselves, to be heard and to contribute to how the People of God can better ‘journey together’.

It is intended to inspire people to dream about the Church we are called to be, to learn from one another, to realise the gifts in each and every person, to bind up wounds, to renew relationships and build bridges, to warm hearts and restore strength for our common mission.

Care should be taken to involve those who may risk being excluded: women, young people, those with disabilities, refugees, migrants, the elderly, people who live in poverty, Catholics who rarely or never practise their faith. And as well as seeking to include all the baptised, the process should include those beyond the visible Church. **No one** – no matter their religious affiliation – **should be excluded** from sharing their perspective and experiences, insofar as they want to help the Church on its journey of seeking what is good and true.

Thank you for agreeing to ‘listen’ to others as part of our Synod pathway. Your listening will help us explore how we are journeying together in our parishes and communities, and to discern what steps the Spirit of God may be inviting us to take as we journey out of the pandemic and ‘dream about the Church we are called to be’.

You can use the questions in this resource to listen one-to-one or to have a simple conversation with a small group. Consider having conversations with:

- People from within your parish/community who may not participate in the Synod process in another way. It is a good opportunity to hear from them
- Members of your parish/community who no longer participate in the way they used to e.g. no longer come to Sunday Mass.
- Children or family members who appear to be more distant from the parish/community than yourself
- Those who may feel marginalised or excluded from the Church and/or society
- People of other Christian denominations and other faiths
- People of no faith who may be willing to help your parish/community consider how to ‘journey together’.

Prepare beforehand using the ‘Listening Deeply’ resource in the appendix of the ‘Guide for the Synodal Journey’. Send the three questions below to those you are listening to in advance. If appropriate send them the ‘Participant’s Guide’.



Diocese of Westminster

One-to-one / informal group listening response form

Name of Listener Click or tap here to enter text.

Date of Listening Click or tap to enter a date.

Name of Parish or Community Click or tap here to enter text.

Individual Group If a group, how many people Click or tap here to enter text.

How would the participant(s) describe themselves;

1. Committed to Faith, Regular attendance at Mass and participates in community life
e.g. Member of pastoral council/ attends prayer group/reader/volunteer
2. Committed to Faith, Regular attendance at Mass
3. Faith & Church have some relevance. E.g. Occasional Attendance at Mass
4. Culturally Catholic but Church has little relevance
5. From a different Christian tradition
6. From a different faith community
7. Person of no faith

Please record key points from your conversations based on the questions below. As far as is possible, please use the words which were actually used by the speaker.

We're thinking particularly about the Catholic Church – and especially how the local Church journeys together, proclaiming the Gospel and showing love to the world.

1. What do you value about how the Church community journeys together and shows love to the world?

2. In what ways does the Church community fail to journey together and show love?

3. What particular issues in the Church and society does the Church need to pay more attention to? How could the Church build relationships, dialogue, learn from and journey with others on these issues?