

30th January 2024

Dear Fathers

TOWARDS OCTOBER 2024

I write, further to the Cardinal's recent letter, with some more information about the Synodal process. Please find attached two leaflets to assist the suggested Parish Meetings. I like to think they will make your task easier. I am very grateful to Fr Chris Vipers and the Agency for Evangelization for assistance in their preparation.

It is envisaged that the two meetings be open to all parishioners, with the following especially encouraged to attend:

1. Parish Finance Council members;
2. Parish Pastoral Council members;
3. Parishioners included in the categories suggested by the Synod Office outline *Towards October 2024*ⁱ (see below).

The Cardinal suggests that we consider how we are tackling the renewal of our sense of mission, in the context of building up communion and widening participation. As a way into this, the pamphlets suggest four questions to assist reflection:

In Meeting 1:

- a) *How do we witness as a Parish and proclaim our faith to: those who have never heard of Christ; those who have ceased walking with Christ; those with whom we worship Christ (those who come to church)?*
- b) *How should we organize ourselves as a Parish to do this more effectively?*

In Meeting 2:

- c) *What concrete steps/formation opportunities would help us begin to witness and proclaim our faith more effectively?*
- d) *What structures may need to change? How might we need to develop the way we are organized currently?*

The Synthesis produced by the Synod in Rome contained a wealth of relevant ideas.ⁱⁱ The enclosed leaflets highlight two which seemed to be of particular relevance: *Co-responsibility* and *Formation*. We suggest you give time to reflect on these briefly before you proceed to the questions.

I look forward to our gathering the fruits of this reflection when the Council of Deans meets on 6th March. It would be helpful if parishes could send to their Dean a report of their meetings by the end of February, please.

Our hope is that, through this process, we will begin to see more clearly how to deepen the evangelization of people at all different levels of relationship to the Church. I trust you will not hesitate to contact me or Fr Chris should you have any queries or concerns.

With all good wishes

Yours sincerely in Christ

+ Nicholas Hudson

Rt Rev. Nicholas Hudson
Auxiliary Bishop

ⁱ “In this stage ... it will be important to involve people and groups that express a variety of experiences, skills, charisms, ministries within the People of God ... ordained ministers ... catechists and leaders of grassroots communities and small Christian communities, ... consecrated men and women, leaders of Lay Associations, ecclesial Movements and new Communities; people who hold positions of responsibility in ... schools, universities, hospitals, reception centres, cultural centres.” (*Towards October 2024* 1. 2. #2)

ⁱⁱ Synthesis Report, *A Synodal Church in Mission*,
<https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/assembly/synthesis/english/2023.10.28-ENG-Synthesis-Report.pdf>