Parish & Community Synthesis Form

**How to use this form**

Thank you for your generosity in taking part in the Synodal Pathway in the Diocese of Westminster. Please use this form to tell us the story of the process in your parish or community. This will ensure we can include your experience within the diocesan synthesis that we’ll prepare for our Pre-synod Diocesan Gathering on 19th February. We hope to be able to tell the story of the synodal pathway across the diocese, so that together we can discern what the Holy Spirit might be saying to the Church in Westminster. It will also help us make our formal submission to the Bishops’ Conference, for the national and international stages of the synod process. Please note, we will not be identifying any particular parishes or communities. Reference to anything within your synthesis will be anonymised.

***Including extra information:***

* As well as completing this form, you are welcome to send any notable examples of the ‘Group Session Record Form’, ‘Share your thoughts Form’ or ‘Simple one-to-one / group conversation form’. These can be included to emphasise particular experiences or insights which enriched your synodal pathway. However, please ensure that you also synthesise these experiences using this Synthesis Form.
* You are also welcome to include a small number of high resolution photographs of any walls of post-its / flip charts, which help illustrate your synthesis. Please ensure that the writing is ‘in focus’.

**Deadline:** Please return by **21 January 2022** to Deacon Adrian:[adriancullen@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:adriancullen@rcdow.org.uk)*If you are able, we welcome your Synthesis to be returned earlier.*

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

**Name(s) of who compiled the synthesis** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Email address** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Date of Submission** Click or tap to enter a date.

**How many people took part in your synodal process (please estimate if necessary)**Click or tap here to enter text.

**How do you think the participant(s) in your synodal pathway would describe themselves – tick all that apply:**

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

There are five sections – please try to complete them all.

**1) What was the story of your synodal pathway in your parish/community?**

* What were the main steps you took?
* What was done to engage as participants and to reach out to the peripheries?
* Approximately what proportion of people in your active parish/Church community participated in one way or other?
* Were there any groups of people whose participation was especially noteworthy?
* Were there specific groups of people who did not participate for any reason?

**2) What experiences of ‘journeying together’ were shared?**

* What experiences of ‘journeying’ during the pandemic were shared? What insights did this reveal?
* What experiences were shared more generally of the Church ‘journeying together’? What had brought joy? What had caused pain or sadness?
* Who did people feel were missing from the Church community? Did participants share anything about the Church’s experience of journeying with and including others beyond the visible Church community?
* Was anything shared about how the parish/community works together or how co-responsibility is put into practice?

**3) What experiences were shared about the Church’s priorities for mission?**

* What did people wish to celebrate about how your parish/community lives its mission?
* How did people feel included in the way the parish/community decides priorities for mission?
* What areas of mission did people say were being neglected within the Church?
* In what ways did they see partnerships with people beyond the Church developing?

**4) What was most significant about the whole experience?**

* What did you notice about how people participated? What attitudes or feelings stood out?
* What was particularly significant, surprising or unexpected?
* What topics or issues gave rise to diverse points of view?
* Which stories or real-life experiences were especially moving and why? (Please anonymise – we only need a sense of the experiences shared.)
* Which experiences seemed to have strong resonance? Which experiences were mentioned less but are significant?

**5) Overall, what were the fruits that the Holy Spirit has brought about through this experience?**

* What dreams, desires, and aspirations for the Church were expressed by participants?
* Were there any particular issues that the people felt the Spirit was inviting the Church to pay more attention to?
* In what ways did you sense the Holy Spirit inviting your parish/community to grow in synodality?
* Based on what was shared, what steps might your parish/community feel called to take in their journeying together?

**Optional: Is there anything else you’d like to share?**

***Including extra information:***

* You are welcome to send a few notable examples of the ‘Group Session Record Form’, ‘Share your thoughts Form’ or ‘Simple one-to-one / group conversation form’.
* You are also welcome to include a small number of high resolution photographs of any walls of post-its / flip charts, which help illustrate your synthesis.