



Synod Newsletter No. 5

Friday 21st January 2022



Mission

In the coming week, our online groups are moving on to the third, and final, theme of the Synod: Mission. If you are not participating in these groups, we invite you to join in by using the self-led guide you will find on the parish website (<https://st-josephs-epsom.org.uk/synod2021.php>).

This Mission theme focuses on how we live out our faith. In particular, what is our role in achieving the mission of the Church? How are we supported in carrying out this role? Groups will also discuss how the Church makes its decisions and how it can evolve to become truly synodal.

One important aspect of this theme is formation. As Christians, how are we prepared to carry out our mission and spread the Word of God?

In our Diocese, Bishop Richard has repeatedly reminded us of the importance of formation. It is one of the threads that runs through his pastoral plan: The Word Who is Life. He calls on every deanery in the Diocese to offer on-going formation in faith, prayer and ministry. This was starting to happen, but Covid restrictions have greatly reduced these activities. Let us hope and pray that, as we emerge from the pandemic, formation will once again become the priority it needs to be.



'Formation in the Christian Life, at an ever-deepening level and at every age, is necessary. We are Christ's instruments in a society that is in need of Evangelisation. This is the Mission of the Church.'



The Synodal logo

This week, we will look at the words incorporated into the logo.

Firstly, they remind us that this Synod will last from 2021 to 2023, covering two Church Years.

However, the following words declare that the intention of this Synod is 'for a synodal Church'. In some ways, then, this will actually be an ever-lasting Synod. The discussions that are currently taking place are ones that need to continue into the future, as the Church seeks to work in a different (synodal) way. This is a time of renewal, as we seek to rediscover how the early Church organised itself.

Finally, the three themes of the Synod are named: communion, participation & mission. Notice that God's people are moving in the same direction as these words, which underline and strengthen their journey.

Group discussions in person

In addition to the online groups, we are also offering parishioners the opportunity to participate in person. This event will take place from 2pm to 5pm in the church hall on Saturday 29th January. The discussions will cover the same range of topics as the online groups, though in a more condensed form. If you would like to attend, please email using the address below.

Contact us

If you have any comments, suggestions or questions about the Synod, please talk to Fr Bill, Fr Stephen or Chris Donovan (synod@st-josephs-epsom.org.uk).