



Synod Newsletter No. 6

Friday 28th January 2022



Thank you

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our Synod discussions over the last few weeks. Almost 100 parishioners have contributed their thoughts and reflections, either through online groups, in-person groups or informal groups. In addition, the older children at our school have also been involved, together with many of their parents.

Special thanks to all those who have led groups: Jonathan Inns, Chris Gomez, Neil Whitmore, David Walsh, Pia Matthews, John Mortimer, Theresa Kenefick, Teresa Weeks, Fernanda Mee & Mary Gorton.

It is clear from the feedback that discussions have been meaningful, rich and productive. There is a lot of feedback to collect and collate. This process is happening now and will finish next week.

What happens next?

We have until Friday 4th February to share the results of our discussions with Bishop Richard. We will submit an official response on behalf of our Parish, but individuals and groups are also welcome to do so. You do this by completing the survey you can find online here: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PTZKV3L.

Bishop Richard will reflect on all the responses he receives from across the Diocese. After a period of

discernment, he will produce a summary, which he will present in an online meeting at 7:30pm on Wednesday 9th March. You can reserve a place at this event by completing a short online form which you will find here:

abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/8yaw6pon.

This Diocesan summary will then be shared with the Bishops Conference of England and Wales for the next step in the journey. In a similar way, reflections from across our country will be shared at a continental level. The final stage is to synthesise the thoughts of Catholics across the whole world to prepare for a gathering in Rome in October 2023.

Normally, this would mark the end of a Synod. But this Synod is unique. Because its focus is the Synodal process itself, the hope is that the way the Church is working over this period will become the way it continues to work going forward. The conversations we have just begun will continue and, God willing, flourish.

What's happening at St Joseph's?

In the course of the Synod discussions, many helpful suggestions have been made about how our Parish can grow and develop, especially as we emerge from the pandemic. There is a commitment to this process, but it can only happen if we all play our part. We must renew the promise made at our baptism to be active participants in the mission of the Church.

Next week's final Synod newsletter will feature a summary of our Parish's discussions and what has been shared with the Diocese. This will include some of the suggestions that have been made. However, changes can only happen if people make them happen. Your Parish needs you!

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).

