

Parish Synod
14th June 2025
Outcomes and Actions



During May and June we collected the thoughts and hopes of many of our parishioners on the future of our parish community, reflecting on our vision and mission: what kind of church do we want to be? How do we build inclusive, joyful, supportive, faith communities? How do we move towards a shared responsibility, a collaborative ministry?

These ideas were explored further at our Synod which, taking place during the season of Pentecost, we entrusted to the Holy Spirit to guide and inspire us.

“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.”

John 15:15-19

Thank you for your prayerful support & contributions.

We acknowledged the realities facing our parishes today:

- Reducing numbers of priests
- Lower numbers attending mass
- Increasing running costs (utilities, maintenance)
- Priests having to serve wider areas/multiple parishes
- Parishes merging or closing.

Looking to the future this means:

- Priests will need to focus on their pastoral and sacramental role
- the laity will need to pick up more of practical (admin, management, operations) activity
- a greater opportunity for lay leadership in all aspects of life of the church.

Alongside this is the call to Evangelise ... to reinvigorate our parishes and faith communities. The focus of our evangelisation, as Pope Francis said and Pope Leo restated, is:

- First, those already committed: we need to be continually re-evangelised to stay committed and grow in our faith;
- Then, our families and community who no longer practise;
- Then those who do not yet know Jesus.

As we look to the future we must be outward-looking: the decisions we make should be determined by how they best serve the mission Christ has given the Church.

We took what we heard from the survey as our starting point and explored the need to build a vision for the future ... and articulate our own role and contribution.

We shared our hopes and ideas, recognising

- ★ the foundation of our parish community
- ★ the desire to encourage the hearts of families and young people
- ★ the need for more active involvement
- ★ the importance of prayer and spiritual life
- ★ the power of music to invigorate our worship
- ★ the hope for new growth.

Now our attention is on turning ideas into action - working together to build a vibrant, joyful community.

The group identified lots of possible actions and shared a willingness to try new approaches to building our community. There's more on our website about the synod and the ideas shared.

We are on this journey together and need to keep listening to each other. This is just the start!

Actions



Reflecting on the priorities identified during the synod our short-term aim is to undertake one action under each key theme between now and Christmas.

The proposed actions are:

Young People - celebrate Christ the King (November 23rd), also the feast on which we mark World Youth Day, with a Youth Mass, inviting the active participation and leadership of our young people.

Music - learn three new pieces of music/songs of praise for use in our liturgy.

Prayer - come together to pray the Rosary one evening each week during October.

Community - using one of our coffee mornings as an opportunity to get to know each other more, creating a 'family tree' of our parish.

We'll use the next few months to consider other ways to respond to the hopes and opportunities shared during our synod.

If you would like to get involved in any of these actions or have other ideas, please speak to Fr. Greg or Karen Morris.