



Antrim Parish – On the Synodal Pathway

An Invitation

Pope Francis has invited us to come together to reflect on our experience of Church, and to share on matters of faith. This coming together is called “**synodality**”. The idea of synodality comes from the word ‘synod.’ It’s an old word from the Greek speaking world – **syn** means with, and **odos** means a path – and simply means “journeying together”. Synodality is a path or a journey that the People of God take with each other. In this synodal pathway the Pope asks that we all take our part and make our own contribution. He says to us:

*Dear Brothers and Sisters,
we need the Spirit, the ever new breath of God,
who sets us free from every form of self-absorption,
revives what is moribund,
loosens shackles and spreads joy.
The Holy Spirit guides us to where God wants us to be,
not to where our own ideas
and personal tastes would lead us.*

In this synodal pathway we are all invited to reflect on two key questions

- How is this “journeying together” happening in our particular situation?
- What steps does the Holy Spirit invite us to undertake in order to grow in our journey together?

The purpose of journeying together is not about producing more documents rather:

Planting dreams
having a vision
allowing hope to flourish
inspiring trust binding wounds
weaving together relationships
awakening a new dawn
learning from one another
creating a bright resourcefulness
that will
enlighten our minds, warm our hearts, and give strength to our hands¹

Beginning a Conversation



Antrim Parish invites us all to share our experiences as part of our response to the Pope’s invitation. We begin our journey together, by initiating a conversation, and by asking you to provide some basic information, and to reflect on some questions as you do so. We will also

[¹] Adapted from Pope Francis’ address at the Opening of the Synod, 9th October 2021

ask you to leave your contact details if you wish to participate further by taking part in face-to-face conversations. Perhaps begin this process with a moment of prayer:

Come Holy Spirit, guide us to where God wants us to be. Amen.

Demographic Information

Please tick which apply to you.

Age

Under 18 18-25 26-40 41-55 56-65 65+

Are you?

Male Female

How often do you attend Mass?

More than once a week Once a week 1-2 times a month
 A few times per year Seldom/never

In what other ways do you express your faith (tick all that apply):

Frequent Prayer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other types of religious services outside of Mass <i>(e.g. Eucharistic Adoration, Novenas, etc)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Confession/Sacrament of Reconciliation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bible reading	<input type="checkbox"/>
Engaging with Christian resources online <i>(e.g. blogs, social media)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kindness to family and friends	<input type="checkbox"/>
Giving time or money to help the disadvantaged	<input type="checkbox"/>
Giving time or money to Catholic charities or activities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Giving time or money to other non-church related organisations	<input type="checkbox"/>

Our experience of a Church that “journeys together”

Pope Francis proposes two key questions:

- ***How is this “journeying together” happening in our particular situation?***
- ***What steps does the Holy Spirit invite us to undertake in order to grow in our journey together?***



As a parish community we desire to be led by the Holy Spirit to be where God wants us to be. We begin this journey by reflecting on life in our Parish in light of the following: *(We can do this as an individual, or a family, or organisation, or with a friend or friends)*

What experiences in Antrim Parish come to mind as you reflect on how the parish is ‘journeying together’? i.e. What stands out for you about parish life?

What joys do those experiences provoke? i.e. What aspects of parish life fill you with joy?

What wounds or challenges have they brought to light?

What insights have they revealed?

Over your lifetime, what, if anything has changed the way in which you see and practice your faith?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Please return in a sealed envelope to the Parish Office or Church Collection Box.

The Parish will organise small group conversations to discern what the Holy Spirit is saying to us at this time. If you would wish to take part, please leave your name and contact details. We want to hear from as many people as possible, so all are welcome, and particularly those who, for one reason or another, feel they are on the margins of parish life. Thank you.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Prayer for the Synod

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever.

Amen.

