

SYNODAL CONVERSATIONS/FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS/ LENT 2022

A Synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, “journeys together”.

What are the strengths of the Church here in the Diocese of Derry?

What does this diocese need to do to ensure people are more engaged in finding the way forward for our church here?

Where in these experiences do you hear the voice of the Holy Spirit?

QUESTIONS -

1. COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY

In our Church and parish, who is included?

Who is excluded?

2. LISTENING

How is God speaking to you and us?

How is God speaking to us through voices we sometimes ignore, including those on the margins?

How do we in the parish listen to those who are in the margins?

What are the obstacles to listening?

3. SPEAKING OUT

What enables or hinders you from speaking out courageously, openly, and responsibly in our parish and community?

What space is there in our parish for the voice of people, including active and inactive members of our faith?

4. CELEBRATION

How do prayer and liturgical celebrations, especially Sunday Mass, inspire and guide you and your parish community?

How does the parish invite all baptised Catholics, including our ethnic communities, youth, families, and persons with disabilities and their families, into the active life of the parish, especially Sunday Mass?

5. SHARING RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR COMMON MISSION

How are the baptised members of our parish; through their lived experience; able to structure the role of the church, in proclaiming the Gospel?

What hinders people from being active in our parish?

6. DIALOGUE IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY

To what extent and how do diverse peoples within our community come together?

To what issues does the Church need to pay particular attention?

7. ECUMENISM

What is our relationship with members of other Christian traditions?
What benefits have we drawn from sharing with them? What are the difficulties?
What are our experiences with dialogue and collaboration with those who have no religious affiliation?

8. LEADERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

How can faith, leadership and responsibility be better exercised in our parish?
In a time of diminishing numbers of clergy, how can the role of one become the shared responsibility of the baptised?

9. DISCERNING AND DECIDING

How are decisions taken in our parish? In our diocese?
How does our parish use the methods of listening and speaking, (consultation) to make decisions?
How does our parish/and the Diocese of Derry, promote participation in decision-making within the hierarchical and diocesan structures of the Church?
Do the decision-making methods of our parish help you to listen to members of the community including those who are on the margins of parish life?

10. FORMING OURSELVES IN SYNODALITY

How does our Church community form/assist people to be more capable of “walking together”, listening to one another, participating in mission, and engaging in dialogue?
What formation is offered to help us build a deeper relationship with Jesus?

Final question on the Holy Spirit?

From your small group sharing, name one insight where you heard the voice of the Holy Spirit today?