

SYNOD 2020

Please go to this website to see some excellent introductions to the Synod issues.

www.synod2020recommendations.org.uk

The Synod will take place on Saturday 19 June. The Synod process of discernment (listening), which has taken place across all parishes in the Archdiocese over the past two years, enables the whole Diocese to be involved in charting the way forward, to make us the Church that God is calling us to be.

Following this extensive discernment, a final 19 recommendations have been developed, these will form the Synod agenda. Clergy and Synod members representing every parish, will vote on these recommendations at the Synod. These votes will then inform and guide a Pastoral Plan to be developed by Archbishop Malcolm.

To ensure that we accurately represent the views of our parishioners we would like to know how you would vote on the 19 proposals which are printed below. The Archdiocese has provided additional resources to support and help us to reflect on each proposal in more detail. The easiest way to access these (for those with access to the internet) is to visit the website at the top of this page.

Copies of the recommendations will be made available over the next 5 weeks for those who cannot access the internet. **Please sign the list in the Narthex if you would like to give feedback and require a copy of the proposals (use the internet resources if possible, to save on copying costs).** We will also hold a couple of meetings to discuss the proposals in the next few weeks (dates to be confirmed).

The recommendations have been grouped into 6 topics:

- 1 Evangelisation and Ministry (recommendations 1, 2 and 3)
- 2 Invite and Welcome in God's Name (recommendations 4, 5 and 6)
- 3 Faith Formation (recommendations 7, 8 and 9)
- 4 Prayer and Spirituality (recommendations 10 and 11)
- 5 Catholic Social Teaching and Community (recommendations 12, 13, 14 and 15)
- 6 Administration and Governance (recommendations 16, 17, 18 and 19)

It is important that you access and read the additional resources provided on the 2020 website to fully understand the proposals.

For each proposal we want you to say whether it is:

- a) A high priority which the Archdiocese should enact soon
- b) Is an excellent idea but not top of my list
- c) Doesn't strike me as vitally important
- d) Is not the right way forward for us in the Archdiocese

Synod Recommendation #1

Evangelisation

We, the people of the Archdiocese, recommend that the pastoral plan heed the call of the Church to be courageous in guiding all Catholics to deepen their relationship with Jesus, and to engage in our mission to help make Jesus known and loved in our world.

Synod Recommendation #2

Lay Ministry

We, the people of the Archdiocese, recommend that the pastoral plan must include honouring the many vocations of all the baptised, women and men alike. This will also include a strong commitment to lay ministry including training employed ministers, supporting volunteer ministers, and coordinating their work alongside the clergy.

Synod Recommendation #3

Ministry

We, the people of the Archdiocese, recommend that the pastoral plan include a strong commitment to ordained ministry including a programme of support and formation for priests, deacons, and seminarians, and coordination of their work alongside lay ministers.

Synod Recommendation #4

A More Inclusive Church

A. We, the people of the Archdiocese, recommend that the pastoral plan include action on the part of both parish and archdiocese to announce the welcome we offer to everyone.

B. We, the people of the Archdiocese, recommend that the pastoral plan include dialogue with those who feel excluded, in order to develop initiatives so that the whole Church can reflect on what it means to be more inclusive.

Synod Recommendation #5

Ecumenism

We, the people of the Archdiocese, recommend that the pastoral plan include a commitment for parishes and schools to develop education about ecumenism which would lead to concrete actions with ecumenical partners.

Synod Recommendation #6

Young People and Young Adults

We, the people of the Archdiocese, recommend that the pastoral plan include a plan to assist parishes in understanding, meeting, forming and welcoming young people and young adults, and developing locally employed and volunteer youth ministers to work with young people and young adults.

Synod Recommendation #7

Faith Formation and Adult Education

We, the people of the Archdiocese, recommend that the pastoral plan include resources dedicated to adult faith formation offered both in-person and online, at archdiocesan and deanery levels.

Synod Recommendation #8

Catholic Schools

A. We, the people of the Archdiocese, recommend that the pastoral plan include a comprehensive review of how we hand on and nurture the Catholic faith within the school context.

B. We, the people of the Archdiocese, recommend that the pastoral plan include the promotion, support, and strengthening of chaplaincy in all our secondary schools, colleges, and further education institutions.

C. We, the people of the Archdiocese, recommend that the pastoral plan include the creation of two or three models of home/school/parish partnership at both the primary and secondary school levels, which can be developed and shared among all the parishes and schools.

Synod Recommendation #9

Children and Young People's Faith Formation

We, the people of the Archdiocese, recommend that the pastoral plan include a programme of formation through which parents (assisted by parish catechists and Catholic schools) can become the primary educators of their children.

Synod Recommendation #10

Spiritual Formation

A. We, the people of the Archdiocese, recommend that the pastoral plan include a provision to help parishes develop spiritual formation opportunities at the local and deanery level.

B. We, the people of the Archdiocese, recommend that the pastoral plan encourage the process of developing “accompaniment parishes” in which family members would accompany one another to deepen faith, and where the parish would play its part in accompanying all who seek “life to the full” within the Catholic Church.

C. We, the people of the Archdiocese, recommend that the pastoral plan warmly encourage all Catholics to grow in confidence in the grace of their baptism, taking the initiative to meet with others (using pandemic learning experiences) to share scripture, faith, and prayer.

Synod Recommendation #11

Sunday Liturgy and the Other Sacraments

A. We, the people of the Archdiocese, recommend that the pastoral plan acknowledge the primary place of the Sunday liturgy in the life and mission of the Church.

B. We, the people of the Archdiocese, recommend that the pastoral plan propose liturgical formation for both laity and clergy so that the Sunday liturgy is worthy and central in all we do in both the manner of its celebration and in the mission it engenders.

C. We, the people of the Archdiocese, recommend that the pastoral plan provide a way for us to review how we are celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Synod Recommendation #12

Catholic Social Teaching and Creation Care

A. We, the people of the Archdiocese, recommend that the pastoral plan include fostering a renewed understanding of Catholic Social teaching across the whole Archdiocese.

B. We, the people of the Archdiocese, recommend that the pastoral plan include the establishment of a “creation care team” that will assist parishes, deaneries, and schools in taking concrete steps to care for the environment.

Synod Recommendation #13

Love of Neighbour

We, the people of the Archdiocese, recommend that the pastoral plan include training for parish volunteers who can accompany those most in need; giving special attention to those who are housebound, sick, or immigrants, and to those who are members of cultural and ethnic minorities.

Synod Recommendation #14

Community Building

We, the people of the Archdiocese, recommend that the pastoral plan include support for small group or family-based gatherings for social activity, study, and shared prayer.

Synod Recommendation #15

Communications and Media

We, the people of the Archdiocese, recommend that the pastoral plan include a commitment to resourcing the promotion, training, and equipping of parish leaders in communication for evangelisation, mission, and community building. This should include model programmes of communication, proper use and recording of data, technology advice, and outreach plans that parishes can adopt.

Synod Recommendation #16

Governance and Synodality

A. We, the people of the Archdiocese, recommend that the pastoral plan include a strengthening of collaborative and synodal leadership at local and Diocesan level with a sustained commitment to accountability, transparency, and inclusivity.

B. We, the people of the Archdiocese, recommend that the pastoral plan as part of our growing commitment to synodality, develop a process that ensures women are equal, valued, visible and heard.

Synod Recommendation #17

Property

A. We, the people of the Archdiocese, recommend that the pastoral plan include establishing a working group of clergy and lay people, along with ecumenical and community partners, to study our current portfolio of properties asking how they can best support our mission.

B. We, the people of the Archdiocese, recommend that the pastoral plan develop strategies to accompany communities as they discern the future use of parish properties.

Synod Recommendation #18

Parishes and Deaneries

We, the people of the Archdiocese, recommend that the pastoral plan be bold and creative in renewing parish and deanery structures. We want our structures too be at the service of our mission, and we are aware that we must adapt parish structures to meet the needs of our age and plan to share resources across parish boundaries.

Synod Recommendation #19

The Church in the Modern World

We, the people of the Archdiocese, recommend that the pastoral plan invite and support all the people of the Church to take a leading role to creatively shape the “new normal” in our society and culture that will emerge after the current pandemic.