

Group Synodal Conversations

St Alban and St Stephen RC Church, St Albans

Groups within the Parish are invited and encouraged to respond to the Pope's call to pray and participate in the world-wide Synod Process by devoting some time at their gatherings to hold a group conversation.

It will greatly help the formation of a parish response to be forwarded to the Diocese if each group consider the same key questions that individuals within the Parish will also be asked to respond to. Please see below. Please remember this process is not about discussing doctrine and teaching. The Synod Prayer is also sent with this communication.

Both the Pope and the Cardinal in their letters and homilies are very clear that in this 'Listening Phase' at parish level it is not solely about gathering opinions but about listening to the Holy Spirit and also through drawing others into the process. Therefore, if time and circumstances permit, to fully embrace the listening phase, it is suggested that after an initial introduction of the process at one gathering (could be via e-mail, virtual or in person) each individual hold separate conversations with others e.g. family members, parishioners, housebound, occasional/non Mass attendees, other faith or non-believers. Then by having listened to other opinions, later group discussion will be enriched through articulation of not only personal feelings but also the views of others from a broader experience.

It would be gratefully appreciated if the final group discussions were summarised and sent to Sara using sara.nash1@ntlworld.com as soon as possible and by 30th November at the latest.

Key Questions:

- 1. What do you find most supportive in our life as a Church community?*
- 2. How does our Church community fail to journey together and how could it better show its love to the world?*
- 3. What are the greatest strengths of participation within the Church?*
- 4. Which people or groups of people are most neglected within the Church community?*
- 5. What is your vision for how the Church should adapt in these changing times?*
 - a. in the short term*
 - b. in the longer term*

Many thanks for devoting your time and expertise to the Synod process. Do not hesitate to contact us (e-mail above) should you have any queries.

Sara & Ian (Parish Representatives)