

Synod 2021: Communion, Participation, Mission

A two-year 'synodal' process is taking place across the Catholic Church. This is an important moment in the life of the world Church, with Pope Francis calling us all to reflect on the theme "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission." The Pope is inviting us to take this journey together. As the Preparatory Document for the Synod expresses, "This path of walking together is the most effective way of manifesting and putting into practice the nature of the Church as the pilgrim and missionary People of God."

Further information about the synod:

From the diocese: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/synod>

From the Vatican: <https://www.synod.va/en.html>

Here in the parish of Arundel...

The diocese has produced some materials on the themes of Communion, Participation and Mission for the synod discussion groups which we will run in the parish - see the schedule below. We hope each session will be a prayerful occasion when we can listen both to the Holy Spirit and to each other. We would warmly encourage you to take part, regardless of how positive or negative you feel your relationship with the Church is. Pope Francis is very keen that those on the margins be involved in the synod, and we want to hear from as many of you as possible and submit your views to the process. This is an opportunity for us all to walk together, especially as we face the challenges resulting from the pandemic.

To keep the process transparent, in the new year we will publish a report on what we submitted from our parish as a result of these meetings.

There will also be an opportunity for people to submit their views online or by post if they prefer, and we will make details about this available in December. However, we would encourage you to consider taking part in a group before deciding to submit your thoughts directly to the diocese. There is no need to come to every session - if you can only come to one, we would still be very glad to see you!

It would help our planning if you could use the online form

<https://forms.office.com/r/yWHtEmJVg1> to let us know which meetings you would like to come to, just so we have some idea of how many people to expect. (If a meeting got very large, we might move to the Cathedral Centre.)

<p><u>Daytime: 10:45 - 12:15 in Cathedral House</u> 3 December - Communion 9 December - Participation 17 December - Mission</p>	<p><u>Deanery Zoom meetings: 7:30 - 9:00</u> Sunday, 5 December - Communion Thursday, 9 December - Participation Monday, 13 December - Mission</p>
<p><u>Evening: 7:30 - 9.00 in Cathedral House</u> 2 December - Communion 7 December - Participation 16 December - Mission</p>	<p>For the Zoom groups, we are using a tool called Mail Chimp to manage the sign-up process - please click here for the form. Alternatively, you can email Eddie on edward.hopkins@abdiocese.org.uk.</p>

