

Parish of St John the Baptist & St Kentigern

Synod Meetings

Saturday 15th January, 10.30am, St Kentigern's

THEME: COMMUNION & PARTICIPATION

Saturday 19th February, 10.30am, St John the Baptist's

THEME: MISSION



Dear friends,

In convoking the two-year synod entitled 'For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission', Pope Francis is calling the entire Church to reflect on a theme that is described as 'decisive for its life and mission'.

The word 'synod' captures the idea of 'journeying together'. This synodal process is a time for us to reflect together so that *"the Church will be able to learn through her experience which processes can help her to live communion, to achieve participation, to open herself to mission."*

At every level, from parish to deanery to diocese to Episcopal Conference and finally to the synod of all the world's bishop's in 2023, the Church is called to engage in spiritual conversations on the themes of communion, participation and mission.

Here in St John the Baptist & St Kentigern's we will be holding our parish synod meetings on the dates noted above. Our Archdiocese have provided a useful format for structuring meetings and a number of questions to guide discussions. We were advised to select three questions for each of the meetings in order to focus things. The PPC met to discuss this and have put forward the following questions as conversation starters.

THEME: COMMUNION & PARTICIPATION (15th January, St Kentigern's Hall)

1. What does participation in the life of the parish mean?
2. What would my meaningful participation in the parish look like?
3. How can we, as a parish, reach out to those who don't feel welcome or are no longer interested in Jesus Christ?

THEME: MISSION (19th February, St John the Baptist's Hall)

1. What is the work of a missionary disciple? Do I believe that God has called me to follow him as a disciple?
2. How can our parish be a light for our community, to share with others the love of Jesus and his saving truth?
3. How can I respond to these questions? What can I realistically give?

Conversations will take place in small groups with the opportunity then to feedback to the whole gathering. We will then compile a short report of the meetings to be sent to the Archdiocesan Synod Delegate (Sr Anna Marie McGuan).

I believe that these synod meetings could be a really good opportunity for us as a parish to look forward and invite the Holy Spirit to guide us and encourage us as we seek to rebuild our community after covid.

I do hope that you will feel able to come along and contribute to the conversations.

In order to gauge numbers we are asking that you register your attendance on Eventbrite (<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/parish-synod-meeting-tickets-212714754557>) or by calling Marlene McCallum (07748 817878).

With every blessing,

Fr Jeremy