

Pope Francis is calling ALL of us to  
SYNOD, to journey together as  
Church, to listen to the Holy Spirit as  
we listen to each other and discover  
afresh how we can all share Christ's  
mission.



For a synodal Church  
communion | participation | mission

## **First – some background to all this!**

Pope Francis has asked every one of the People of God to let him know how things are for them in the Church. He believes we are all trying to journey together through life, finding ways to communicate the fundamental message of Jesus, to love one another, in how we live our lives and in our words.

That is the meaning of the word ‘Synodal’ - ‘journeying together.’ How, therefore, does this ‘journeying together’ take place today on different levels (from the local to the universal one), allowing the Church to proclaim the Gospel?”

**Timescale** He has asked the Bishops of the world to ask you and then tell him. Our parishes (Holy Rood and Our Lady and St.James) have to submit their responses to Bishop Ralph by March 2022. Then all the Bishops of England and Wales will collect your thoughts and will gather in Rome for a Synod in 2023 to tell the Pope what they have heard from you all.

## What do I need to do now?

First we would like you to reflect on the ten areas on the accompanying response and write down your thoughts in the spaces provided. Then return your completed form and place them in the box at the back of church by SUNDAY 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The response sheet will also be available to download from the Parish website and print off at home.

In January and February, meetings will be held with Father Damian, John Gregson, Louise Mullany and others who have offered to help in the parish. *'Out of the swell of dialogue, the Holy Spirit will speak'* – it is hoped that the ensuing discussions at these meetings will bear further fruits and responses that can be added to those already received.



It would be nice to get as many people involved in completing response forms as possible so we would really appreciate it if you could make the time to fill one in.

*“The purpose of the synod is not to produce documents, but ‘to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and*

*visions, hope to inspire bind up weave*



*allow flourish, trust, wounds, together*

*relationships, awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another and create a bright resourcefulness that will enlighten minds, warm hearts, give strength to our hands.”*

**{Pope Francis}**