



**ARCHDIOCESE OF CARDIFF**

**SYNODAL PROCESS**

**RESPONDING TO**

**THE DOCUMENT FOR THE CONTINENTAL STAGE**

**AUTUMN 2022**

**Parish..... Town / City .....**

**Responses to Madeleine Walters at [madeleine.walters@rcadc.org](mailto:madeleine.walters@rcadc.org) by**

**29<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

## Introduction

In April 2022 the Archdiocese of Cardiff submitted its Diocesan Synod Report to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales [ CBCEW] along with all the other dioceses. The Bishops have considered these reports and produced a document – the National Synthesis- that brings together all the views of the twenty two dioceses into a single document. The process should start to highlight key issues, central matters for further discussion and areas of common endeavour.

The bishops will now start to discuss their National Synthesis with bishops across Europe in what might be regarded as the Continental stage. From these discussions the bishops will prepare for the General Assembly in October 2023.

In order that the synodal process remains an active ingredient in these discussions, the People of God are asked to share their thoughts on three fundamental questions. Each diocese will be responding to the same three questions. The Diocesan Synod Team will be required to develop a report for +Mark by the middle of December 2022. It provides an ideal opportunity for the parishes to reflect on their own report, to consider it in the light of the Diocesan Report and to reflect honestly and courageously on the progress that they have made in addressing the issues raised in their parish.

The three questions are :

1. “After having read and prayed with the DCS, what resonates most strongly with your experience of your parish? Which of the things described in the DCS are new, or illuminating to you?”
2. “After having read and prayed with the DCS, what possible tensions do you think are particularly important? What are the **questions or issues** that should therefore be addressed and considered in the next steps of the process?”
3. “Looking at the previous two questions, what are the **priorities, recurring themes and calls to action** that stand out and should be taken further?”

The purpose of these questions is to identify the elements of the DCS that align with the National Synthesis, those elements that are unique or different from the national report and finally how do we resolve the tensions between them.

The Diocesan Synod Team will be looking for responses from parishes as well as from individual groups. Archbishop Mark is keen to hear from parishes on the progress that they are making and responses can be sent to him as well as to the Synod Team.

For the purposes of the parish response please use the proforma as set out below as it will allow us to compare responses. You will have the chance to reflect on your parish's progress



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Question 3

In Question 1 & 2 you will have reflected on the *process* of the synod in your parish and the *product* of it- what you are starting to do. What are the key messages that all parishes could use to decide how they manage to share the faith and to support those on the periphery? Are there general truths that you would want to share? What is God calling us to be through the synodal process?

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*Many thanks for your contribution to this work.*