

NOTES FROM THE PARISH SYNODAL ACTION GROUP MEETING June 29th 2024

As always, the meeting began with prayer and a Scripture Reading (1 Cor3: 5,6)

Synod update:

Local churches sent their contributions via the Bishops' Conferences and the Eastern Churches to Rome. A Working Document is expected to be published in early July. We looked at the comparison between the English and Irish Reports. It appeared that the Irish report showed more awareness of the culture of synodality and that there has been a greater implementation of the synod model. "Conversations in the Spirit" model seemed to be used more widely in Ireland.

Parish/Deanery/ Diocesan updates

The news that a Parish Team in our Parish is being formed was welcomed. There was some discussion about how it might function and how it might be constituted. The hope was expressed that young parishioners might be involved in some way.

Several priests from our diocese had attended the recent National Assembly of Divine Renovation, exploring the dynamic between Maintenance and Mission in the church. The emphasis was understood to be on leadership and evangelisation. There was a discussion about how people are sometimes frightened by the use of words like "mission" and "evangelisation" – perhaps we need some help in understanding how they apply to us.

Is there a basis for merging the new Moderated Parish model with the synod perspective? Perhaps forming a network of laity across the region? There is an upcoming meeting in Eastbourne Parish about the new Moderated Parish. It was hoped that Fr. Kevin might be able to visit the parishes involved, perhaps to speak at Masses. There was a discussion about how aware people are of the changes coming and about how more active involvement of laity can be encouraged? It was noted that prior to the pandemic, there was considerable involvement in some areas.

The African Community in our Parish and across the continent of Africa (eg Zimbabwe) give a good example with the model of meeting in small groups in homes. Perhaps we can adopt a model of "Neighbourhood Groups"

There was some discussion about the use of non-Eucharistic liturgies in the future, especially where there is a shortage of priests, as a way of keeping a community praying together.

The meeting concluded with a time of intercessory prayer.

The next meeting will take place on Saturday September 28th 2024.