

As always, the meeting began with prayer and a Scripture Reading (John 17:20:23)

Aspects of the Synodal Vision that have emerged from the Synod

- Although the Synod draws to a close in Rome this weekend, it is a process and on-going
- Improved communications in the Church generally needed.
- The Church in this country doesn't appear to tap into the creativity and energy of the laity. The synodal vision is one of a more participatory church. The Church in South America is a good example of laity involvement (but from necessity)
- The Synod has looked at the models of Seminaries and how they might improve in practice, including in the training in leadership and management skills.

Significant aspects of the Rome meeting

- Inclusion of the laity and their viewpoint being heard.
- Global mixing
- Ecumenical presence
- The use of "Conversations in the Spirit" Encouragement in the use of, and training for the practice of, "Conversations in the Spirit" in wider/local settings would be welcome.

Other points of discussion:

The role of women in the Church: ordination into the Permanent Diaconate or other roles? More information on roles of Lector, Acolyte and Catechist would be welcome.

The new Lectionary: More information would be welcome. Copies for the laity not ready yet!

Parish/Deanery/ Diocesan updates

A meeting has recently been held in Battle Parish Church about our Deanery becoming a new Moderated Parish. Much of the practicalities still seem unclear, despite our Deanery being one of the last to engage in the process. Have lessons been learnt from the experience of other Deaneries? Is there an overall vision?

The fledgling Parish Team is beginning to take shape.

The future of this group was debated, as the Synod as such comes to an end. It was agreed to continue, so as to provide a "Synodal presence" in the Parish in the immediate future; it provides a forum where people can speak freely from the truth of their experience. But its focus will need to be clearly articulated.

The meeting concluded with a time of intercessory prayer.

The next meeting will take place on Saturday November 30th 2024.

