

Synodal Action Group Meeting 28.9.2024

We opened with a prayer. The Bible reading was 1 Corinthians 12, vv 12, 27. There was a time of silent reflection.

Update on progress in Synodality included amongst other things: In South America, the Bishops' Conference is progressing in synodality. There is a focus on formation especially in training women, for example in the Amazon where there already are some women leaders. Also, one European Bishops' Conference has introduced a 5 year "synodal trial phase" to embed synodal methods of decision-making and discernment. The Irish Church is preparing for a National Synod.

The Pope has set up study groups to report back next June (2025) on, eg- how bishops are appointed, how seminaries can be reformed, women deacons in the church, ecumenism.

The working document for the upcoming Synod Meeting in Rome was issued in July. It tells us what the October meeting will be about.

HOW are we to be a synodal Church? What can be done in practice to become more synodal?

A variety of ministries can be entrusted to the laity eg Lector, Acolyte and Catechist. Women as well as men can participate eg run a church community, lead, teach the Faith, preach. The laity can officiate at funerals (as is being introduced in Ireland). The setting up of Parish Councils is in the document, with membership reflecting the parish (different ages, ethnicities, those from the margins of the community) There should be participatory decision making with listening to one another in Conversations in the Spirit. The Ministry of Accompaniment should be developed (which used to be called Spiritual Direction).

In our meeting it was mentioned that synodality is rooted in Vatican II - the seed was sown then, but we are now to broadcast that seed, so to speak. The dream of our group is o to have Conversation in the Spirit at

meetings, rather than concentration on "what is to be done" as at business meetings; everything should be rooted in the Holy Spirit.

In our own Deanery The **Moderated Parish** meeting held in Eastbourne was very positive and everyone was very enthusiastic. There is to be a meeting in Battle 3.10.24 The Moderated Parish will be set in motion in November 2024.

In our own parish. **Faith in the Family** - 2 morning drop-in sessions were offered for parents to come to after dropping their children off at school, An after school programme for October is being put together to include crafts for the children. The November session will concentrate on prayer and the next on Advent.

Praise was given for the Parish priest's time spent with the children on Sunday mornings. It is going very well. Our Keralan families were mentioned as being very good at preparation, they meet separately too.

A 4th Saturday of the month **Youth Group** for 4-12 year olds is planned. The leader will attend Youth Engagement for Older Children training. A positive end of year report at the Parish Pastoral Team meeting had been given including the accounts and the hiring out of Concordia Hall. Comments were made about the difficulties of booking the hall for parishioners' use.

The Parish Pastoral Team, has met for the second time, There are 8 grouped activities : Finance, Properties, Liturgy, Mission, Formation, Social Committee, Youth, and Communications. Representatives from both churches have been appointed to each activity except Communications as yet. (If anyone can think of someone with suitable skills in communications, please tell Father M.) This is all very new and no doubt information will be fed out to parishioners as it beds in. The representatives have yet to make contact with all those leading the various activities.

A good suggestion was made of a "spidergram" directing people to anything connected with spirituality in our Parish.

We closed with prayers.

Next meeting 26th October at 10.45 in Holy Redeemer Church Hall. All welcome.