

# Synod Open Meetings – Questions Submitted

## The Synod and Young People

- Ensuring involvement
- What about children?
- Support for schools' involvement
- Have questions been suitably worded for children and young people?
- Specific issues pertaining to the Isle of Man (no high school, no youth groups, etc)

## Outcomes

- Mechanisms to ensure decisions are followed through
- Managing the implementation of outcomes
- Are the decisions of Synod already made?
- What decisions can the Archbishop make?
- Ensuring outcomes are implemented locally
- How radical is the Archbishop prepared to be?
- How things are passed upstairs, how feedback is got, and to what extent these issues that are beyond the remit can be discussed.

## Issues

- Avoiding hobby-horses
- Ensuring pro-life issues are addressed
- Those which are beyond the remit (married and women priests)
- Will difficult questions be addressed?
- Reversal of the changes of Vatican II
- General Absolution
- Divorced and Remarried
- LGBT
- Coping with the decline of priests
- Priests seen as an issue – how do we stop them ruining it?
- Contraception
- Living vibrant communities

## Synod Members

- One member per parish too few especially where parishes have merged
- Perceived over-representation of clergy
- Who gets to vote and do all votes carry the same weight?
- How are members chosen? Is this monitored?
- Will there be schools members?
- Groups that are active within the diocese
- Commitment in the role of a member? Is this unreasonably big?
- Will membership work around ordinary life?
- Specific role of deacons as members?
- Will guidance be given about organising meetings and gatherings?

- How do we get to 500?
- Widnes (&Leigh) numbers
- Ensuring members faithfully reflect what they have heard
- Can a Synod member be changed?
- Need full timetable before volunteering
- How is Pastoral Area Member different to parish Member?
- Disabled people as Members
- What training is being provided?
- Will priests get the same training?

## Process

- What was the purpose of calling a Synod?
- How have the questions been chosen/developed?
- Do the questions limit and stifle discussion?
- Number and variety of local meetings
- How many proposals will there be?
- No young person on the WP
- What happens when things are carried by the vote of Synod?
- Have other Synods successfully implemented their proposals?
- How does 'needing the permission of the Vatican' limit us?
- Infrastructure to handle the information that is gathered
- Is this Leaving Safe Harbours II?
- Will there be a family gathering as part of Synod 2020?

## Participation

- Diocesan agencies
- Reaching those who are hard to reach
  - Refugees and Homeless
  - Divorced and remarried
  - LGBT Catholics
  - Catholics who do not practice
  - Parents/Guardians/Carers
  - Other faith communities
  - Ethnic minorities
  - Other church communities (prisons, hospitals, universities etc)
  - Poor
  - Health sector
  - Secondary Schools
  - Old, lonely, sick, and housebound
- Some people will be discomfited by this process, how do we ensure we do not lose them?
- Ecumenical Observers
- What focus groups will there be?