

Together on the road



Becoming the Church we are called to be

SYNOD 2020
Archdiocese of Liverpool

Initial Meeting of Synod Members

9, 13, and 16 February 2019

Introduction

Fr Philip Inch & Fr Matthew Nunes, Synod Moderators

Welcome to the first series of Synod 2020 Members gatherings. These initial gatherings of Synod Members will inspire, inform and help us all as we embark on the next steps on the Synod journey.

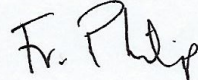
In his homily at the Opening of the Synod on Sunday 3 February, Archbishop Malcolm told us that *a new day is breaking, a new dawn is rising on the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Liverpool*. It is both exciting and awe-inspiring to hear the Synod described like this. You may feel unworthy, you may feel a bit un-prepared for what lies ahead. That is fine. These gatherings of Members will, hopefully, begin to equip you for the tasks ahead.

We are conscious of the time and commitment that is being asked of Synod Members and how important it is that we offer all the support you need. Yours is a vital role. Without you, and again these are words of the Archbishop, *the voice of the Holy Spirit guiding this local Church will not be heard*.

Pope Francis has repeatedly said that Synodality is the Way of the Church in the third millennium. Here in the Archdiocese we are trying to be faithful to his vision. Our Synod will change the Archdiocese, it will change us. So that is a call to prayer. The prayer of each one here, but also the prayer of our local parishes and communities. Please encourage prayer for the Synod in any way you can. Use the Synod prayer and invite parish groups to pray it as part of their regular gatherings.

Finally, please let as many people as you can know about the Synod Survey. We want to hear from as many people as possible across the Archdiocese. The survey can be accessed via the Synod website: www.synod2020.co.uk

Thank you once again for agreeing to be a Synod Member. Thank you for coming today and we hope you enjoy the time we will spend together.



Speakers

Fr Eamonn Mulcahy CSSp



Fr Eamonn is a Spiritan or Holy Ghost Father originally from Manchester. A priest since 1980, he has extensive missionary experience, working with young adults, teaching theology and giving retreats. From 2006-2013 Fr. Eamonn lectured in Systematic Theology at Tangaza University College. He has also been appointed as one of the Episcopal Vicars for Religious in his home Diocese of Salford.

Fr Eamonn will speak today on Synods and the Church under Pope Francis.

Prof Stephen Bullivant



Stephen Bullivant is Professor of Theology and the Sociology of Religion. He is Director of the Benedict XVI Centre for Religion and Society. An award-winning scholar, Prof Bullivant's research and teaching interests are wide-ranging and interdisciplinary. Most notably, they include several areas of Catholic theology, and the social-scientific study of religion and atheism/secularity.

His newest book, *Mass Exodus: Catholic Disaffiliation in Britain and America since Vatican II*, is published later this year.

Prof Bullivant will speak today on The Church in England & Wales in the 21st Century.

Canon Chris Fallon



Fr Chris is a priest of the Archdiocese of Liverpool where he is the director of the permanent diaconate and parish priest in Norris Green.

Previously he was director of Pastoral Formation for ten years before becoming Pastoral Director at Ushaw College. He completed his PhD, *Changing Patterns and Understandings of Priesthood in the Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool*, in 2013.

Fr Chris will speak today on The Situation in the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

Our Synod Journey

**February
- July
2019**

Listening & Discernment

The people of our Archdiocese will be invited to reflect upon and respond to the four Synod

Questions via an online survey, focus groups, and listening sessions in local communities.

Synod Members will facilitate the local listening and feedback to the Synod Office

**September
2019 - May
2020**

Themes

Themes will emerge from our listening and discernment and these will become our Synod

Themes. These will be launched at our meetings of Members in September/October and then reflected

on at Pastoral Area pre-Synods in late-2019 and early-2020.

**June -
October
2020**

Proposals

Our Pastoral Area pre-Synods will develop proposals based on our Themes.

Synod Members will take these proposals to their communities and listen to responses and reflections.

**17 & 18
October
2020**

Synod 2020

Synod 2020 will take place on Saturday at the Sunloch Suite, Aintree, and on Sunday at the

Metropolitan Cathedral. Having listened to the people in their local communities over many months,

Synod Members will discern their response to the questions and vote on the Synod Proposals.

Synod Membership

As Synod Members you are tasked with listening, reflecting, and discerning. You are challenged to find ways of listening to the concerns, needs and reflections of your communities and to 're-present' these to the Synod where they will be gathered together, in a coherent fashion.

You are called to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit guiding the life and mission of the Church in this place and time.

Our Synod Membership currently consists of:

Parish Members:	142
Pastoral Area Members:	153
Priests with a Diocesan Appointment:	151
Other Members	39
8 Seminarians	
10 Religious	
4 Retired Priests	
2 Synod Working Party	
5 Pastoral Associates	
5 Nugent	
2 Ecumenical Commission	
2 Bishops	
1 Vicar General	



*The sun is not setting on the Catholic church in
the Archdiocese of Liverpool, but a new day is
breaking,
a new dawn is rising.*

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon
Homily at the Synod 2020 Service of Inauguration

Next Steps I

Register for Listening & Discernment Preparation

On Monday 11 February, in an email to all Members, you are asked to register for ONE Listening & Discernment preparation session. There are 14 dates around the diocese but places are strictly limited at each of these. Please register early to avoid missing out on your preferred sessions.

Saturday Preparation Sessions		
Saturday 23 February	St Patrick, Southport	9:30am—1:00pm
Saturday 2 March	St Joseph, Harpers Lane, Chorley	9:30am—1:00pm
Saturday 9 March	St Teresa, Upholland	9:30am—1:00pm
Saturday 16 March	Sacred Heart Catholic College, Crosby	9:30am—1:00pm
Saturday 23 March	Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Croxteth	9:30am—1:00pm
Saturday 30 March	St Anne, Ormskirk	9:30am—1:00pm
Saturday 13 April	Old School House, Huyton	9:30am—1:00pm
Midweek Preparation Sessions		
Wednesday 27 February	LACE	11:00am—3:00pm
Thursday 4 April	Our Lady Immaculate, Bryn	1:30pm—5:00pm
Evening Preparation Sessions*		
Tuesdays 5 and 12 March	Pastoral Centre, Widnes	7:15pm—9:00pm
Thursdays 21 & 28 March	St Luke, Prescott	7:15pm-9:00pm
*Please note that evening preparation sessions take place over 2 evenings		

Isle of Man: Listening and Discernment Preparation will take place for Members on the Isle of Man on Saturday 9 March, 10:00am—1:30pm.

Next Steps 2

Pastoral Area Meetings of Members

After the Opening Ceremony, the Initial Members Meetings, and the Listening Preparation, the final part of the training for Synod Members will be meetings of all Synod Members in Pastoral Area groups.

At these meetings the priest, parish, and Pastoral Area members will come together to think about and plan how to go about the task of listening in their local community. The meetings will be facilitated by one of Fr Philip, Fr Matthew, or Matt Jeziorski, with support from other members of the Synod Working Party.

The dates of these meetings are listed overleaf. In every case they will be from 7:30pm—9:00pm except the Isle of Man which will be an afternoon meeting (2pm-3:30pm).

Synod Office

The Synod Office is here to support Synod Members in your task and make things as straightforward as possible for you. The Team is:

Fr Matthew Nunes (Synod Moderator)	m.nunes@rcaol.co.uk
Fr Philip Inch (Synod Moderator)	philipinch@rcaolp.co.uk
Matt Jeziorski (Synod Coordinator)	m.jeziorski@rcaolp.co.uk
Jacqui O'Rourke (Synod Administrator)	synod2020@rcaol.co.uk

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Tel: 0151 486 1206

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Pastoral Area Meetings of Members

Bootle & Litherland	Wednesday 8 May	George Inch meeting room at St Robert Bellarmine
Chorley	Monday 29 April	St Mary's, Chorley
Crosby	Wednesday 1 May	St Peter & Paul's Sunshine Room
Croxtheth & Walton	Thursday 9 May	Russell Room at St Philomena's
Isle of Man	Sunday 12 May	St Anthony's Parish Hall, Onchan, 2pm—3:30pm
Knowsley	Thursday 2 May	TBC
Leigh	Thursday 9 May	TBC
Leyland	Wednesday 1 May	St Teresa's, Penwortham
Liverpool North	Thursday 2 May	Meeting room at St Oswald's, Old Swan
Liverpool South	Tuesday 30 April	St Patrick's Church Meeting Room
Ormskirk & Maghull	Monday 29 April	St Anne's Pastoral Centre, Ormskirk
St Helens	Wednesday 1 May	Holy Cross Parish Hall
Southport	Wednesday 8 May	St Patrick's
Upholland	Tuesday 30 April	St John Rigby Centre at St Richard's , Skelmersdale
Warrington	Tuesday 7 May	Sacred Heart Parish Centre
Widnes	Thursday 2 May	Pastoral Centre
Wigan	Wednesday 8 May	Sacred Heart Parish Centre
Woolton & Halewood	Thursday 9 May	Hope University Chaplaincy

Notes

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Notes

Programme

Morning

Arrivals and Introductions

Ellie McKeown & Kate Wilkinson

Input 1: Synods and the Church under Pope Francis

Fr Eamonn Mulcahy CSSp

Prayer

Led by the Synod Liturgy Group

Lunch

Afternoon

Input 2: The Church in England & Wales in the 21st Century

Prof Stephen Bullivant

Input 3: The Situation in the Archdiocese of Liverpool

Canon Chris Fallon

Practical Matters

Fr Matthew Nunes

Conclusion & Departures at 4pm