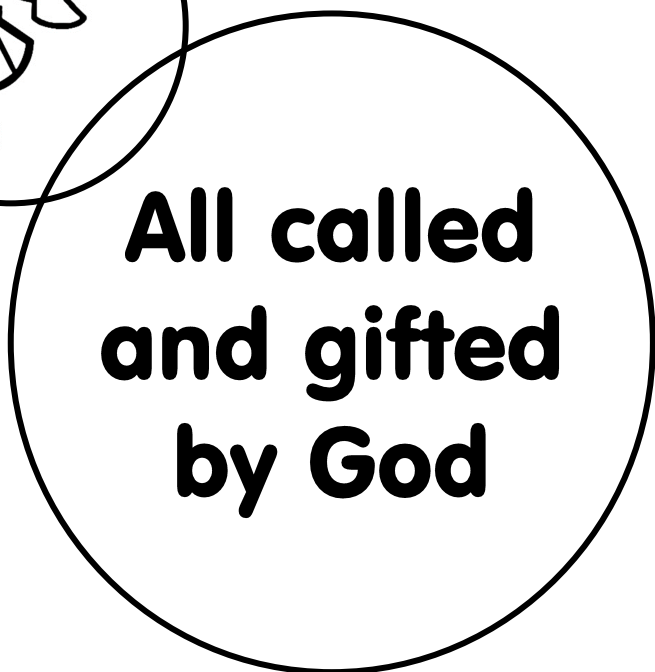
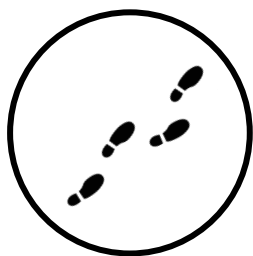


The first Synod Theme



**All called
and gifted
by God**



SYNOD 2020
Archdiocese of Liverpool

20 October 2019 -
17 November 2019



This is what you said (taken from the Synod Listening)

- Gifts of lay people should be appropriately used.
- Young people have a vital and valuable contribution to make.
- Priesthood is valued.
- Young people need particular support as they discern their life choices.
- Priests need to be better supported.
- The role of women in the Church should be celebrated.
- Be more inclusive and welcoming of diversity.



Scripture Matthew 9:9-13



As Jesus was walking on, he saw a man named Matthew sitting by the customs house, and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.

While he was at dinner in the house it happened that a number of tax collectors and sinners came to sit at the table with Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your master eat with tax collectors and sinners?' When he heard this he replied, 'It is not the healthy who need the doctor, but the sick. Go and learn the meaning of the words: What I want is mercy, not sacrifice. And indeed I did not come to call the virtuous, but sinners.'



To ponder

- How do I hear the call of God in my life today?
- How do I feel about being called by God?
- What changes in me because God has called me?
- What does it mean for us to be a church of saints and sinners?



Reflections from scripture and tradition

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is in Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:12

To respond to our vocation, we need to foster and develop all that we are. This is about finding our true selves in the light of God and letting our lives flourish and bear fruit.

Pope Francis, Christus Vivit, 257

In God's plan, every man and woman is meant to seek self-fulfilment, for every human life is called to some task by God.

Pope Francis, Christus Vivit, 257

The eyes of faith behold a wonderful scene: that of a countless number of lay people, both women and men, busy at work in their daily life and activity, oftentimes far from view and quite unacclaimed by the world, unknown to the world's great personages but nonetheless looked upon in love by the Father, untiring labourers who work in the Lord's vineyard. Confident and steadfast through the power of God's grace, these are the humble yet great builders of the Kingdom of God in history.

Pope St John Paul II, Christifideles Laici, 17



Questions to help you prepare proposals

- What different models of leadership in parishes could we explore?
- How should we encourage and equip people to use their different gifts in mission and ministry?
- How do we enable people of all ages, especially young people, to grow, flourish and contribute as part of our communities?
- What needs to change about the way priests are recruited, trained, appointed and supported?
- What structures need to be put in place to ensure effective collaboration and decision making between ordained and lay people?

These are only a few suggestions – you may have many others.



Prayer

Lord,

I thank you for the wonder of my being,
and for all the goodness in my life.

I thank you that you have called and gifted me
that I might make a difference in the world
in which you have placed me.

Open my heart more fully to your Spirit
that I may rejoice in all that you have done
and will do in me and through me.

Amen.



Your proposal

Having reflected on the situation, how our faith informs us and what needs to be done in order to become the Church God is calling us to be, write your proposal for action and give it to your Synod Member, hand it in at Church, take it to a local meeting or submit it online at www.synod2020.co.uk/themes.