



Format for a Parish Meeting

Sharing the mission of Jesus

Before the Meeting

You will need:

- Copies of *Reflections from Scripture and Tradition*
- Paper for writing proposals on
- Pens
- Synod Prayer cards

You might also consider having a prayer focus including a Synod Candle and some cloths in the Synod colours.

Introduction and Welcome

We are meeting to reflect on our second Synod Theme, **Sharing the mission of Jesus**. We will hear a little of what was said to inspire this Theme, reflect on Scripture and Tradition as we try to understand God's dream for his Church, and generate proposals for action to put forward to the Synod.

Opening Prayer

Loving God,
We thank you for the call in our lives
to proclaim the good news of your son Jesus.
Like him, may we bring your compassion and care for the poor.
May we bring sight to the blind, freedom to those held captive,
and together work for the transformation of our world.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Reflecting on the Synod Listening

This first part of our reflections looks at what was said during the Synod Listening. Some of the things that led to this Theme are:

- Our purpose is to take Christ's message into today's world.
- Present the face of Christ to the world.
- Light up the world and spread the Gospel.
- Be a haven from broken society.
- Evangelise.
- Love.
- Go out and be seen in the community.
- Show the love and compassion of Christ.
- The Church is the main way for people to discover Christ.
- And much more!

In the light of what people said invite the participants to reflect on the following questions:

- How can the parish rise to the challenge of moving from maintenance to sharing the mission of Jesus?
- Do you think programmes like Alpha (or any other renewal programme) should be promoted more widely?

- How can the parish adapt to face the needs of our times?
- How can we communicate better the good news of Jesus in a language that speaks today?
- How can we be witnesses to care for the environment, for the whole of creation?
- Many parishes and individual parishioners are already caring for others in all sorts of ways - what gaps are there?
- What can we do to address the loneliness and isolation that so many people feel today?
- What is the best shape of our parish/pastoral area structures?
- How could we make best use of the buildings we have?

You might like to invite some sharing of people's responses to these questions.

Gospel Reading (Luke 4:16-19)

Jesus came to Nazara and went into the synagogue. Unrolling the scroll of the prophet Isaiah he found the place where it is written: The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

Questions for Reflection

- How do I feel about being a crucial part of the mission of Jesus?
- How can I live this out in my daily life?
- Why am I so often reluctant to take this up?
- What help do I need to enable me to respond to the fact that Jesus has sent me out?

Give an opportunity for people to ponder these questions before inviting them to share anything that strikes them. You could consider using stones and the listening technique here.

Reflections from Scripture and Tradition

Distribute the reflections from Scripture and Tradition and invite people to reflect on them, underlining anything that strikes them. Participants are then invited to share their reflections.

Generating Proposals

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, what is your proposal for action?

Invite everybody to write one proposal and collect them in. Thank people for taking part in this meeting and explain what will happen next:

- All proposals submitted in the Parish will be brought to a discernment meeting.
- At this meeting the five proposals that our Parish will submit to Synod 2020 will be decided.
- We will let you know what the final choices are.

The meeting concludes with the Synod prayer.

Other Resources

There are video resources – Archbishop Malcolm's introduction to the Theme and a Theological Reflection – available on the Synod 2020 website that you may like to use should the facilities be available. See www.synod2020.co.uk/themes/missions

Reflections from Scripture and Tradition

Sharing the mission of Jesus

The King will say to those on his right hand, “Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me.” Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?” And the King will answer, “I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.”

Matthew 25:34-40

Evangelising is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelise, that is to say, in order to preach and teach, to be a channel of the gift of grace, to reconcile sinners to God, and to perpetuate Christ’s sacrifice in the Mass.

Pope St Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 2

I dream of a “missionary option” that is a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, languages and structure can be suitably channeled for the evangelisation of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation... The parish is the place where this can happen if we can be bold, courageous and creative.

Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 27, 28

What [Christians] need is an “ecological conversion”, whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them.

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*, 217

