



### Questions to help you prepare proposals

*In Becoming the Church that God is calling us to be:*

- How do we ensure our parishes are inclusive and welcoming?
- How do we hand on our faith? Can you think of ways to do this better?
- How can we encourage and support the work of our Catholic schools?
- How can we support and strengthen the home, school, parish partnership?
- How do we reach out to those who feel excluded, on the margins, weak, or vulnerable?
- How do our parishes grow in love for God and service of our neighbour?
- How can parishes work better together?
- What will the parish of the future be like—given a realistic look at the numbers of priests and people we have?

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



### Prayer

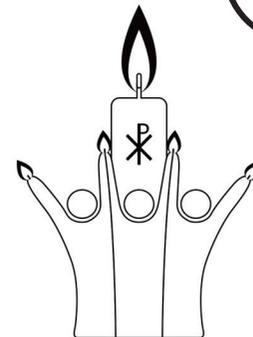
Loving God,  
 Teach us how to pray in the midst of a busy world.  
 May we open our hearts to you  
 and in the power of your Spirit  
 build community and nurture belonging that we,  
 as Church, might be a sign of contradiction in the world  
 and help others to see an alternative way of living.  
 We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
 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](http://www.synod2020.co.uk/themes).

# The fourth Synod Theme



**SYNOD** 2020  
 Archdiocese of Liverpool

16 February 2020 -  
 16 March 2020



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

- Children should feel safe and loved in our Church.
- Divisions leave people feeling marginalised and pushed to the fringes.
- Young people should feel fully part of the community.
- Parishes are important for building community in a fractured society.
- The Church is vital in welcoming and valuing the weak and the vulnerable.
- Find better ways of handing on the faith.
- Housebound or infirm should still feel part of our communities.
- Belonging to a parish community is good for children and families.

... and much more!



## **Scripture Romans 12:9-19**

Do not let your love be a pretence, but sincerely prefer good to evil. Love each other as much as brothers should, and have a profound respect for each other. Work for the Lord with untiring effort and with great earnestness of spirit. If you have hope, this will make you cheerful. Do not give up if trials come; and keep on praying. If any of the saints are in need you must



share with them; and you should make hospitality your special care. Bless those who persecute you: never curse them, bless them. Rejoice with those who rejoice and be sad with those in sorrow. Treat everyone with equal kindness; never be condescending but make real friends with the poor. Do not allow yourself to become self-satisfied. Never repay evil with evil but let everyone see that you are interested only in the highest ideals. Do all you can to live at peace with everyone.



## **Reflections from scripture and tradition**

To be part of a Christian community is to belong to a group of believers who shun selfishness and give witness to God's love by loving and caring for one another. While modern society places more importance on 'one's own interests regardless of or even to the detriment of others', true Christians 'ban individualism in order to encourage sharing and solidarity'.

*Pope Francis, Wednesday audience, 26 June 2019*

The family is the basic cell of society. It is the cradle of life and love, the place in which the individual 'is born' and 'grows'. ....We cannot make too great an effort to prepare our parents to be catechists of their own children.

*Pope St John Paul II, Christifideles Laici, 40*

The family is the community in which, from childhood, one can learn moral values, begin to honour God and make good use of freedom. Family life is an initiation into life in society. The family should live in such a way that its members learn to care and take responsibility for the young, the old, the sick, the handicapped, and the poor. There are many families who are at times incapable of providing this help. It devolves then on other persons, and also on society, to provide for their needs.

*Catechism of the Catholic Church 2207, 2208*



## **To ponder**

- Pope Francis reminds us that we love God by caring and loving each other, this is at the heart of our faith. Individualism gives way to solidarity. In what way do I try to do this in my own life?
- Pope St John Paul II says we must do all we can to support families, especially in handing on the faith. What is my experience of this in my own family, in my parish?
- How do the families I know show their care for each other and for those in need?
- Have I seen evidence of parish communities becoming families in themselves, drawing in and including those who don't have a supportive family network?