





Archdiocesan Synodal Council | Saturday 9th November 2024

Recently, 115 people from across the Archdiocese (including the Isle of Man) met at St Margaret Clitherow Centre for the second annual Archdiocesan Synodal Council. In attendance were representatives from each of our 13 Deanery Synodal Councils and other representatives from diocesan groups and ecumenical observers.

During the morning, strategic actions derived from each of the six development areas of the Pastoral Plan were discussed and feedback was taken from each table. Later in the day, questions submitted by each Deanery Synodal Council were discussed and feedback given. Below is a summary of the major points taken away from the day, which will be stored in our hearts and minds in our future work.

The Major Points in Summary

It was encouraging that all those present were committed to embedding **synodality** within the Archdiocese as a way of communicating and working together. The sense of energy and passion was tangible throughout the day.

	<p>Accompaniment There were many questions about the term accompaniment used in the first development area in the Pastoral Plan. What does this term actually mean and what does it look like in the reality of our communities?</p>
	<p>Communication A clear desire for all channels of communication to be reviewed: those between both Synodal Councils and Family of Parishes; those coming from and to central Archdiocesan departments (including website, social media etc.) and transparency in all parts of Archdiocesan life (including finance).</p>
	<p>Youth/Young Adults This was seen by many as an urgent issue for the future of our Archdiocese. Everyone was encouraged to know that the recruitment of a Youth Coordinator is currently in process to support the church of the future.</p>
	<p>Engagement There were concerns about how the laity and clergy can be engaged fully, particularly those who may have not heard the message, or those who are not yet willing to engage with the process for whatever reason.</p>
	<p>Clergy Support There was a sense of responsibility to ensure our priests are supported through accompaniment and training, during what may be a huge period of change. Priests need access to individualised holistic health and wellbeing as they support and facilitate our journey to become a Synodal church.</p>
	<p>Strategic action What are the concrete steps necessary to enable action, particularly in relation to our resources at local parish level. There is a thirst for this to be a synodal process with a clear set of criteria in decision making.</p>
	<p>Clarification There was a desire to have the remits of the Archdiocesan Synodal Council, Deanery Synodal Council and Families of Parishes clarified and their relationship with one another further defined.</p>
	<p>Synodality at local level As our synodal church develops (through the councils etc.) there is a need to ensure that working synodally is strengthened at a local level within our parishes and Family of Parishes.</p>
	<p>Formation and Training Many asked for formation and training to be developed: formation to convert hearts and minds so that we are a vibrant church fit for our future mission; and training so that those involved in leadership, catechesis and ministry truly live out, with confidence, their vocation as a baptised member of the church.</p>



Be assured that all these points will remain at the forefront of our minds. There are many plans and strategic steps either in the pipeline or being actioned. As we have 'good news' to share we will ensure this happens...

Becoming the Church God is calling us to be