

Fr James Burns
Diocesan Survey Contact
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Friday, 3rd December 2021

Dear Head, Head of RE, Chaplain,

As you may already know Pope Francis launched a 2-year worldwide Synod process on 10th October 2021 entitled: **For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission**. He has invited everyone to take part in a dialogue of listening and speaking under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This begins at the local level in our parishes and diocese.

Between now and **28th February** we are inviting as many people as possible to engage with this process. The feedback will be submitted to the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales on **Palm Sunday** and this will then contribute to a national report. Eventually this, in turn, will contribute to reports which will be sent to the Vatican in **2023**. The Pope and Bishops of the world will then meet in Synod to discuss their findings. This whole process is teaching us how to be a 'synodal' Church, a Church which discerns the Holy Spirit's voice in and through the People of God.

As part of the Synodal journey we are asking that you engage with the parents, teachers, and pupils of your school to discuss the 10 main themes. To facilitate the gathering of feedback our diocese has employed a survey which has been set up by **CathCom**. You will find this survey already on the Lancaster Diocesan website. It goes live on **15th December 2021**. We encourage individuals to respond by attending any gatherings organised in the parish or to meet in groups to experience the opportunity of listening and speaking in a prayerful way. They can then individually fill the survey in online or on paper.

Please consider either placing the survey app on your school/college website or, if this is not possible, a link to the survey on the Diocesan Website.

TO EMBED ON YOUR WEBSITE

The CSS code for embedding is as follows:

```
<link rel="stylesheet" href="https://www.CatholicDirectory.org/snippets/synod.css">  
<div id="Synod-wrapper" style="width:100%;max-width:600px;margin-left:auto;margin-right:auto;"></div>  
<script src="https://www.CatholicDirectory.org/snippets/synod-js.asp?SurveyID=23"></script>
```

The website manager should add these 3 lines on the page chosen by selecting 'embed code' or the equivalent function for your website editor. The survey should then be visible when the edits are saved and published:

The lines of programming above shouldn't need to be changed - but if you want to change the layout of some parts of the survey - for example the width - you can change the CSS code on the second line. For example to make the survey 75% of the width of the box/page you put in: change "width:100%;" to "width:75%;".

If you are using a website builder like Weebly or Wordpress it may be more complicated to add the code to your website. It may also depend on what package you pay for as to whether you can add code to the site or not. For example-

For those who use weebly please see the instructions for embedding code: <https://www.synod.cc/weebly/>. For those who use WordPress the code should be added in 'Text' view and saved in 'Text' view. Do not switch to 'Visual' view because it may result in some of the code disappearing.

TO SIMPLY INCLUDE A LINK

If you find it too difficult or not possible to add the code to your website then try just adding the link to the Diocesan website instead:

<https://www.lancasterdiocese.org.uk/useful-information/for-a-synodal-church-communion-participation-and-mission/>

The above survey is generally for individuals to fill in – so it would be appropriate for parents and teachers to fill in for themselves.

FOR DISCUSSIONS IN CLASS

With regards to your pupils there is a modified survey which is only available by visiting a hidden webpage on the Diocesan Website. It is not available for the general public to use. The link below should only be used within the classroom:

<https://www.lancasterdiocese.org.uk/useful-information/for-a-synodal-church-communion-participation-and-mission/for-a-synodal-church-schools-page/>

As the questions being considered are generic you may wish to rephrase them to make them age-appropriate. It is left to you to decide the minimum age limit for your classes. Please fill the survey in as a group response.

Given that we are approaching Christmas please do not worry about trying to do anything until the New Year (unless you want to). We do hope that you can organise some time in the busy curriculum to allow as many of your pupils as possible to take part in this worldwide process.

For now the survey is only displaying a holding page which shows the questions to think about. It will be launched on **15th December 2021** at which point the holding page will change to allow people to fill in the survey.

Please see my article in the December issue of the Catholic Voice for further background on the Synod.

With my best wishes for Christmas and the New Year,

Fr James Burns
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