



## Solemn Proclamation of Synod 2020

Pope Francis gives us inspired leadership to take us into the future. He personally inspires and is admired by Catholics, other Christians and by people of other faiths and no faith. His leadership challenges us to see how we can be a Church which reaches out, which serves and which boldly proclaims the Gospel message. He has stated that he sees Synodality as the Way for the Church in the 3rd millennium.

In the light of his challenges to us and in awareness of the changing situations of the Church in the Archdiocese I have consulted with my Council, with the Council of Priests, and with the Deans (and through them with the people of the parishes) and have decided to call a Synod of the Archdiocese.

I signalled this intention in a Pastoral Letter in October 2017 where I announced a year of prayer to prepare for the Synod and to ask for the guidance of God. In October 2018 we celebrated the first Synod Sunday. In my Letter for that day I focused on the need to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to us through the life and experience of all the priests, deacons, religious and people of our Archdiocese. It is our duty to discern carefully together what the Spirit is saying to the Church in the Archdiocese, and agree on common directions and actions for the future.

In convoking the Synod I am calling us to be bold and creative in the task of rethinking the goals, structures, style and methods of evangelisation in our Archdiocesan community with its various parish and ecclesial, religious and social communities.

As we set out towards the Synod, we entrust our journey to Mary the Patron of the Archdiocese. She is the mother and first disciple of Jesus, and her journey of faith is a model for all Christians. She reminds us to be attentive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. She knows better than any of us where, in God's grace and mercy, our journey is ultimately heading.

In accord with Canons 460-468 of the Code of Canon Law and the 1997 Instruction on Diocesan Synods, I hereby decree the convocation of a Synod for the Archdiocese of Liverpool, to be held from 17th – 18th October 2020. This will be known as Synod 2020.

*+ Malcolm*

Most Rev Malcolm McMahon  
Archbishop of Liverpool

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2019

