



Synod 2020 Discernment for St. Mary's Parish
w/b 7th December 2020 (x2 affirmations and x5 proposals for each theme)
By Paul Hodge (Synod Parish Representative)



Dear parishioners - Below you will see the 'Proposals and Affirmations' that I have submitted to the Synod office on your behalf. The decision to send these choices above others have been made after consultation via meetings, online questionnaires, school discussions with pupils and staff and my own personal reflections. In the new year we will learn how other parishes around the Archdiocese have voted as the Synod will publish their chosen proposals and affirmations that will be voted upon at the Synod Weekend in June 2021. Please read the information below and pray to the Holy Spirit to continue to guide us on our journey towards being the church that we are called to be.

Theme 1 - All Called & Gifted by God

Affirmations -

1.7: Young People: The Synod affirms that the people of the Archdiocese find joy when children and young people are visible and active in our worshipping communities. We yearn to be a place where more young people find belonging, meaning and purpose. **AND**

1.6: Women: The Synod affirms that invaluable contribution of women to the life and mission of the Church and recognises that many feel that this contribution is not sufficiently valued.

Proposals -

1.12: Schools and Parishes work together to find create and accessible ways in which young people have an active voice in the synod and structures of our parishes and pastoral areas **AND**

1.3: Clear roles established for lay people within parishes to support decision making and development of parish life **AND**

1.7: Parish and pastoral area communities should benefit from professional lay ministers including pastoral associates and youth workers **AND**

1.11: The Archdiocese initiate a process that ensures women are equal, valued, visible and heard **AND**

1.34: Pastoral areas should look at the buildings their community needs and use them well.

Theme 2 - Sharing the Mission of Jesus

Affirmations -

2.6: Love Thy Neighbour: The Synod affirms that we are moved with compassion by the suffering of the poor, weak, marginalised, lonely and vulnerable in our society. **AND**

2.10: Children and Young People: The Synod Affirms children and young people as valued members of the community.

Proposals -

2.12: There are regular, well advised opportunities for worship, service and socialising for young people across pastoral areas. **AND**

2.13: The links between school and parishes are strengthened better to serve the mission of the church **AND**

2.14: Each pastoral area there are opportunities to belong to small groups for formation, prayer, socialising and action **AND**

2.7: Pastoral areas or cluster of parishes work together to reflect on the needs of the communities they serve, the support available and effective response **AND**

2.11: The Archdiocese develops a new communication and media strategy that enable people to learn, be informed, communicate and evangelise.

Theme 3 - How We Pray Together

Affirmations -

3.10: Schools and Young People: The Synod affirms the place of schools in the prayer life of the parish community. **AND**

3.9: Sick and Housebound: They are asked to pray for everyone in their parish even though they may not be able to go to church.

Proposals -

3.8: Following COVID-19, people have a renewed understanding that the Church is the people not the buildings. Home is a holy place and proposes that resources are provided to support and develop the domestic church. **AND**

3.18: Social Media opportunities are used effectively and all parishes are supported in producing and maintaining their digital profile. **AND**

3.13: By collaborating in local clusters, parishes will work imaginatively in sharing resources and providing widespread times of masses and other services. **AND**

3.16: Ways are found to support and value the sick and housebound as praying members of our communities. **AND**

3.17: Parishes find ways to involve the gifts of young people in liturgical celebration.

Theme 4 - Building Community, Nurturing Belonging

Affirmations -

4.1: Welcome and Inclusivity: The Synod affirms the principle that Churches and parishes are places of welcome and inclusion and that by welcoming a diversity of people we will be enriched by their gifts.

4.5: Outreach: Each parish could make links and contact with people who are sick, lonely or unable to go to church.

Proposals -

4.1: Emphasis should be placed on making our churches welcoming and inclusive, that parishioners need training in the Ministry of Welcome and that the welcome we give must be inclusive of all. **AND**

4.6: New ways are found to support parents to hand on their faith to their children. **AND**

4.9: Each parish develops its ministry to the elderly, the sick, the housebound and the lonely. **AND**

4.11: Our parishes turn outwards, joining with other churches, faith communities, charities, and other organisations to serve the local community. **AND**

4.7: Further development of peer to peer youth ministry as a way of affirming young people as valued members of the church.