



*In the  
Diocese  
of  
Nottingham*



## A Timeline for the First Phase of the Diocesan participation in the Synodal Process

Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Council of Priests: distribution of Prayer cards, Adoration template, etc for parishes and chaplaincies.
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	<p>Diocesan Launch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Pastoral Letter to be read in all churches and chaplaincies, with the distribution of prayer resources;</li> <li>• The Bishop will preside at Saint Barnabas Cathedral, 11.15am Mass;</li> <li>• Parish Launch of prayerful discernment – afternoon Celebration of Adoration and Vespers (template to be provided).</li> </ul>
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	World Mission Sunday – announcement of first parish meeting over the next fortnight to consider what a Synod is, and how my parish/chaplaincy can contribute to the Synodal Process. Suggested questions for each parish to consider: 1) <b>What is my dream for the Church, for my parish/chaplaincy so that it can become more outward-looking, more missionary?</b> 2) <b>To achieve this dream, what do we need to stop doing? What are we doing that needs to be developed or done differently?</b>
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	In schools the process of listening to pupils and students begins, as well as outreach through the NDCYS for encounters with young people who are not in Catholic schools. The six parish questions are adapted to three questions for schools: 1) <b>What is my dream for the Church and my school? How can we make this happen?</b> 2) <b>Who are the people who feel left out and excluded in the Church? How can we reach out, listen to, and love them? Think of two ideas, one for now and one for the future, to help include them.</b> 3) <b>What does the Holy Spirit inspire us to do in our Church and school? What do you think the Holy Spirit is calling us to do next?</b>
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Clergy Deanery Meetings to consider: 1) What’s been happening in parish meetings so far; what ideas are emerging? 2) Planning for the January Special Deanery Meeting: who will lead the Deanery discussion? Will it be in person or by zoom? Suitable venue if in person, number of parish delegates, etc?
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Day of Prayer for the Poor, and Remembrance Sunday – announcement of second parish meeting this week to consider 1) <b>As a parish/chaplaincy do we know who are the people who feel marginalised or separated from the parish/chaplaincy and society?</b> 2) <b>How best can our parish respond? Suggest at least two identifiable ways (an immediate action and a long-term change) in which, as a parish, we will reach out to, and listen to, the marginalised or separated.</b>
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	World Youth Funday – schools are invited to use this day as part of the listening process to celebrate their connectedness with schools and young people around the world, recognising that the Holy Spirit brings us all together in the Church as a single family of God.

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November

First Sunday of Advent – announcement of third parish meeting to consider this week what the Holy Spirit may be saying to us as individuals/ parishes & chaplaincies. In the light of God speaking to Mary, consider specifically: 1) **How do I hear and respond to the voice of God’s Holy Spirit, in my life; what signs of the Spirit at work do I see in the life of my parish/chaplaincy?** 2) **What steps may the Holy Spirit be calling us to take, as a parish/chaplaincy, on our journey together into God’s future?** Please retain your own parish notes for ongoing parish use but, in summary form (maximum two sides of A4), please highlight the two actions (on the basis of all the discussions) you wish to take forward in your parish planning, explaining why these have been chosen, to give a little context. This should be sent to your Dean by 15<sup>th</sup> December.

## 2022

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord – announcement of a special deanery meeting to be held this month, open to delegates (lay, religious and clergy) from each of the deanery parishes. The shape of this Meeting will: 1) enable each parish / chaplaincy to share two actions it has decided upon; 2) this will be followed by a time of prayerful discernment; 3) then discussion and agreement on what as a deanery we can do better together, rather than separate, to enable more fruitful dialogue with the wider community (ecumenically, with other faiths, in charitable outreach and with civic bodies).

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Each deanery should have sent its submission (maximum two sides of A4) by this date to either of the Diocesan Synod contacts: Father David Cain [david.cain@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:david.cain@dioceseofnottingham.uk) or Joe Hopkins [joe.hopkins@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:joe.hopkins@dioceseofnottingham.uk), so that, with the Bishop, they might collate the responses from all the deaneries, schools, chaplaincies, religious and any other submissions to help create our diocesan report (10 pages maximum). This will then be sent to the Synod team of the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales who will then collate all the reports from the dioceses into a summary of the main themes. This, in turn, will then be sent to and discussed by the Conference of European Bishops’ Conferences. Meanwhile our own diocesan discernment continues.

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

Feast of Chair of Saint Peter – a special Diocesan Meeting is convoked, including Mass in Saint Barnabas Cathedral (with streaming facility), at which the fruits of the Diocesan phase of the Synod journey are presented to the clergy, laity and religious from parishes, schools, chaplaincies and any other groups. This event will provide an important opportunity to share and celebrate parish, school and deanery actions.

Lent – Pentecost

Each parish, school and chaplaincy is asked to make use of this period to begin implementing the two actions it decided to take forward; each deanery is asked to do the same.

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June

Solemnity of Pentecost – a time to celebrate the movement of God’s Holy Spirit within our diocese over these past months, and to begin to discern afresh where the Holy Spirit is leading us, the People of God, in this diocese of Nottingham.