

# DIOCESAN SYNODAL PATHWAY ORIENTATION

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FOR THE FIVE PASTORAL AREAS



# Welcome and Prayer



- A reflection on ***Adsumus Sancte Spiritus*** (We stand before you Holy Spirit)
- Speakers for this evening from the Synodal Committee
  - Archbishop Dermot Farrell
  - Fr Kieran O'Mahony OSA
  - Patricia Carroll M&M
  - Peter Siney PPW
- An understanding of what synodal pathway is

# Overview of our Session



- **Theological Orientation** – What's the difference between Synod and Synodality
- **Scriptural Orientation** – Informing scriptural background – Peter, the Crowd and Apostles
  
- **BREAK OUT ROOMS** – What's new for you? What are you hearing? Ten minutes
- **CHAT FUNCTION** – Five minutes
  
- **Pastoral Orientation** – Maximising Participation
- **Practical Orientation** – Training Animators for Local Gatherings
  
- **BREAK OUT ROOMS** – What's staying with you? What questions are arising for you? Ten minutes
- **CHAT FUNCTION** – Ten minutes
  
- **Resources available**

# Theological Orientation



- A Synod is a gathering of people, or priests, or bishops that helps the Church move forward together
- Last Synod in Ireland was in 1850
- A synod is not a parliament or opinion poll
- Synod is an ecclesial event
- Synod is a Spiritual Experience
- If the Spirit is not present, there will be no Synod
- Synod is a place of encounter not of confrontation

# Theological Orientation



- This synod begins locally by the people of God listening to each other and to the Holy Spirit
- This synod is a two-year process rather than a one-month event
- Synodality is about the way we are Church together
- A synodal Church walks together in fraternal dialogue
- Aim is to give the entire Church as a lived-experience of synodality
- Don't just talk about it—live it.

# Scriptural Orientation



## 1. The periphery

- Hear, O Israel: listening and listening again.
- Peripheral vision.
- Peripheral hearing.

## 2. The Acts of the Apostles

- Emerging community of faith.
- Obvious: Acts 15 (the so-called "council" of Jerusalem).
- Less obvious: Acts 10:1-11:18 (the so-called "conversion" of Cornelius).

# Scriptural Orientation



## 3. The Holy Spirit

- The unpredictable Spirit.
- The Spirit beyond our boundaries.
- The Spirit always ahead of us.
- The struggle to attend to the working of the Spirit.

## 4. Conversion — yes, but?

- Cornelius?
- Peter?
- The church?
- And so...?

## 5. Further exploration...

- Tom O'Loughlin *Eating Together, Becoming One*, (2019) chapter 5.

# Scriptural Orientation



GOD LOVES  
**EVERYONE!**  
PETER'S *JUST*  
FIGURING THIS  
OUT?

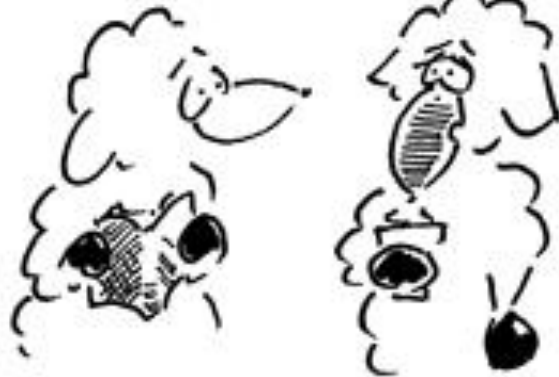


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GOD WILL FORGIVE  
ANY SINNER, NO  
MATTER THEIR  
BACKGROUND.



THAT'S A MAJOR THEME  
IN ACTS AND HERE IT'S  
BEING REVEALED TO  
PETER AND US.



BETTER LATE THEN  
**NEVER**, I GUESS.



ACTS 10:34-43



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## BREAK OUT ROOMS

- What's new for you ?
- What are you hearing?

**TIME: 10 minutes**



# CHAT FUNCTION

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INSIGHTS

# Pastoral Orientation

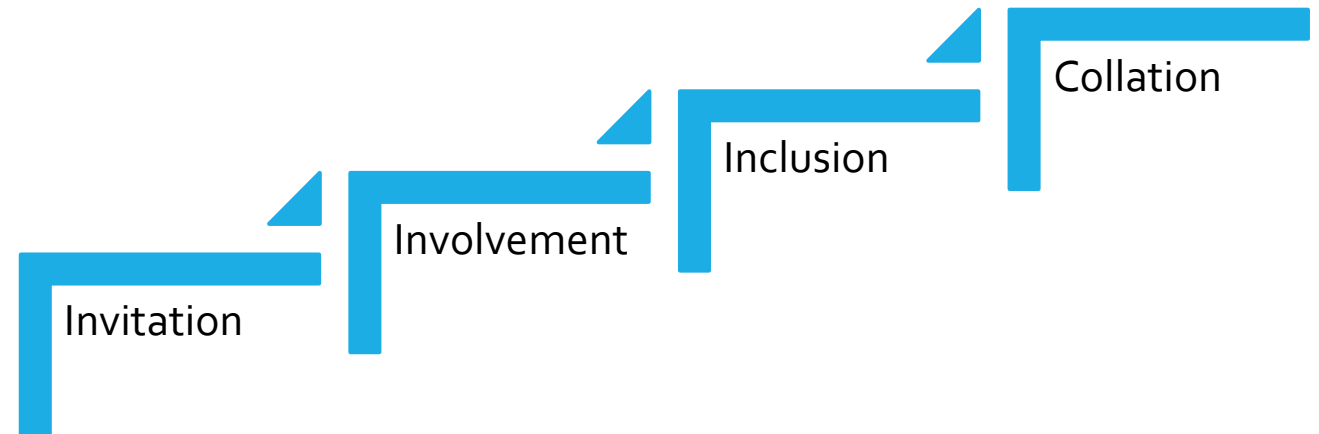


- The Synodal Pathway is a shared pastoral event
- Three pastoral principles inform the whole process
- **Sharing** – The hopes and fears, the joys and sorrows
- **Taking part** – based on the model of a co-responsible Church and the equality of baptism
- **Reaching Out** – going beyond the parish gates or the door of the Church
- The role of local leaders is to maximise **PARTICIPATION**
- Building inclusion into the whole approach

# Pastoral Orientation



- At local level what will this look like?
- Accessibility so that as many can take part as possible
- Fairness where everyone is treated equally
- Accurate synthesis of responses
- Respect for rights, dignity and opinions
- Clear communication at the levels of invitation, involvement, inclusion and collation of responses



# Practical Orientation



- This journey will take place in phases
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase is for training of Local Animators
- 2 Sessions of 2 hours per area
- One before Christmas, the other after Christmas
- Formats will be provided for local gatherings
- In person and zoom options
- Page 19 Simply Synod maps out the process
- Timings altered as the whole process is extended to August 2022
- Local Gatherings complete by June 2022
- Gatherings from February onwards
- Keeping Covid safety in mind
- Collation – a digital template for this

# Practical Orientation



- **ROLE DESCRIPTION FOR ANIMATORS**
- To organise together with the PPC a local gathering where people can share in an environment of prayer and acceptance
- To enable participants to listen well to each other
- To support a prayerful process of discernment in the parish
- To ensure that anyone who wants to take part is included

# Practical Orientation



## SUPPORT AND RESOURCE PROVIDED:

- Diocesan Training Sessions
- Resources for leaders and participants
- Simply Synod online booklet
- Ppt presentation slides for a local gathering (can be used in person or on zoom)
- Online Web 2 minute Synod bite-size videos
- Ongoing accompaniment from the office of Mission and Ministry



# BREAK OUT ROOMS

- What's staying with you?
- What questions are arising for you?

TIME: 10 minutes





# CHAT FUNCTION

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Questions arising

# Resources Available



- Diocesan Webpage go to Synod
  - Synod Resources
    - Simply Synod
    - Bitesize videos
    - Prayer Resources
  - Keep an eye on the website as more resources are added
- **COMING UP**
  - Animators Training Sessions
  - 2 Sessions of 2 hours per area
  - Formats for gatherings
  - Format for Focus group

# FINAL PRAYER

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;  
teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life  
and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

