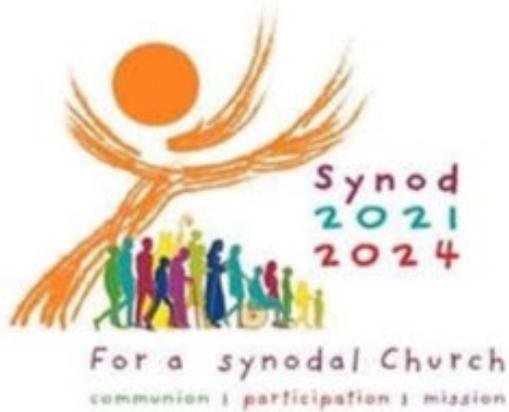


Synod Webinar 2023



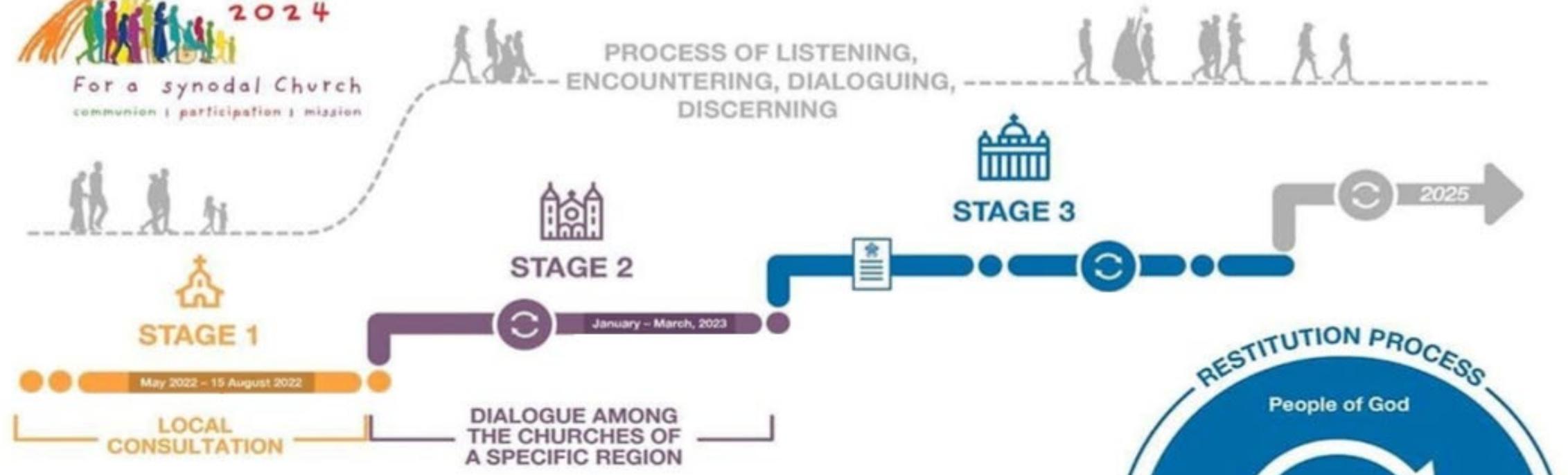
Introductions and Welcome

- We are in Synod
- Synod is a way of being
- We are now in a new phase – Continental Phase
- 1st phase – Diocesan delegates invited to do a circular reading of the Continental document, Diocesan document and National document



The Synodal Process

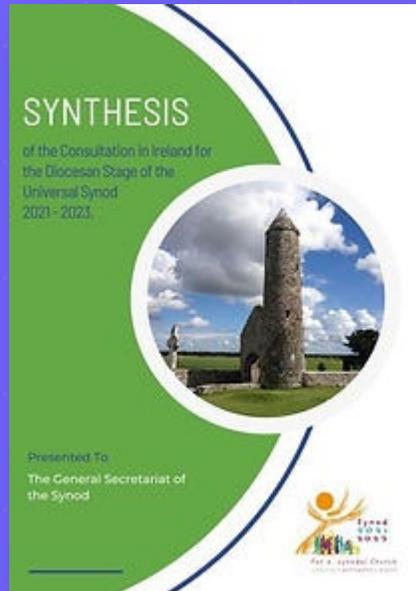
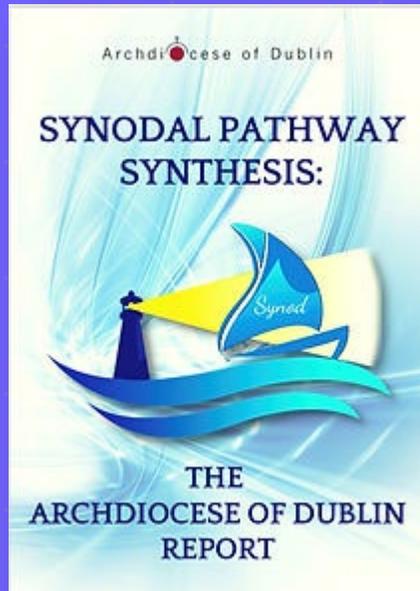
2021 - 2024



ICON INDEX



Three Reports



Continental Phase reading by the Diocesan Steering Committee:

1. Experiences of the Churches
2. Challenges to address
3. Priorities and calls to action

What we noticed

EXPERIENCES OF THE CHURCH

- The abuse crisis in the Catholic Church was emphasised again and again, especially in the national synthesis (and somewhat less in the diocesan report)
- Continuity in the emerging themes is a great surprise. There is a fundamental consistency between the documents.
- There is a strong sense of the Spirit moving in this.
- People affirmed their sense that the Holy Spirit was in the experience and process, even at this early stage.
- Learning how to be co-responsible, two aspects to this based on our common Baptism:
 - 1) the need for a deeper theoretical / theological understanding of this and
 - 2) the need for an updating of Canon Law to permit / support it in practice.

What we noticed

EXPERIENCES OF THE CHURCH

- The reports all highlight the need for formation, for both laity and clergy, as well as the need to become synodal in all that we undertake.
- Synodality is named more explicitly as a new way of being Church in the Continental phase less so in the Diocesan phase
- The Isaiah text (*Continental document*) reflects a generous Spirit and openness to all, the image of the tent is very accessible
- The word 'siblinghood' is inclusive and the choice of this word is saying we are trying to put inclusivity into practice
- Convergence
- Clericalism is loudly named as a key issue with regard to growing in synodality

What we noticed

CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS

- Abuse is mentioned across all reports but not just in regard to sexual abuse but abusive practices
- Inclusion is called for at all levels, expanding our horizons about who is in the tent and how we can reach out to all
- Young people's voices are often not heard, their gifts not affirmed, a key challenge is to reach out to them.
- The equality of the Baptised and the role of women in the Church are deeply felt and critical in all reports
- Priests participating in the process, some clergy do not see themselves as part of this, there is a real challenge to enable priests to see their role alongside others in this.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 15:4

“Enlarge the space of your tent,
spread out your tent cloths unsparingly,
lengthen your ropes
and make firm your pegs”



Enlarge

- The image of a tent reminds us of presence and protection
- A tent is a place of gathering and meeting
- A place protecting us from harsh weather
- A place where we can feel safe

How can we create a bigger space for others to take part in the synodal journey?

Spread

- In the desert still today tents are extended by opening the sides and adding more cloth
- The cloths stretch out like curtains creating more space

Who is feeling included and who is wanting to get in now that the journey has begun?

Lengthen

- When the ropes of the tent are lengthened they are held in a strong tension
- This balances the tent and keeps it stable

What tensions are we now aware of and how can we hold these in balance?

Firm up

- When the pegs of the tent are firmed they anchor it firmly
- This holds it all together
- The pegs can always be moved when the tent needs to go to a new area

How do we value the fundamentals of our faith while being open to new horizons?

Enlarging the Tent

Enlarging the tent requires welcoming others into it,
making room for their diversity.

It entails a willingness to die to self out of love,
finding oneself again

in and through relationship

with Christ and one's neighbour.

A call to each of us

“Amen, amen, I say to you,
unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies,
it remains just a grain of wheat;
but if it dies, it produces much fruit”
(Jn. 12:24).

Letting go

- What cherished ideas or values might I need to leave behind as we move forward in this synodal journey?
- How am I continuing to allow myself to be changed by this synodal process?
- Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit...

Two threads in Dublin in 2020 -2022

One Way Ahead



Synodal Parish Gatherings 2022

Connected directly to
Sharing our experience of Church

Building Hope 2021/22

Connected directly to
Challenges to address

What we noticed

Priorities and calls to action emerging

At all levels

- Formation about Baptism for all
- Making a commitment to think with the Church on synodality

What we noticed

Priorities and calls to action emerging

CHURCH UNIVERSAL

- The call to update of Canon Law in encouraging and supporting synodality.
- Theological Formation about Baptism
- Many people and groups feel excluded; we need to develop new approaches to include all
- There is an urgent need to develop and promote meaningful roles and ministries for women in the Church; both pastoral roles and decision-making roles with authority and responsibility.

What we noticed

Priorities and calls to action emerging

CATHOLIC CHURCH IN IRELAND

- Bishops Conference to act in a synodal way and develop synodal practices
- Formation in leadership
- Accountability at every level
- Women to participate in the formation process for clergy.
- Seek ways to introduce and adopt inclusive language in liturgies and all church documents (eg. early adoption of new lectionary).

What we noticed

Priorities and calls to action emerging

ARCHDIOCESE OF DUBLIN

- Energy around continuing the conversations that are synodal
- Enrich the diocesan pastoral renewal project Building Hope by using and promoting synodal practices
- Bring the mentality that is captured in the Tent image into every parish in the Diocese
- Keep the momentum of synodality going
- Develop Council structures and understanding of being Conciliar, for example Diocesan Pastoral Council

Priorities and call to action



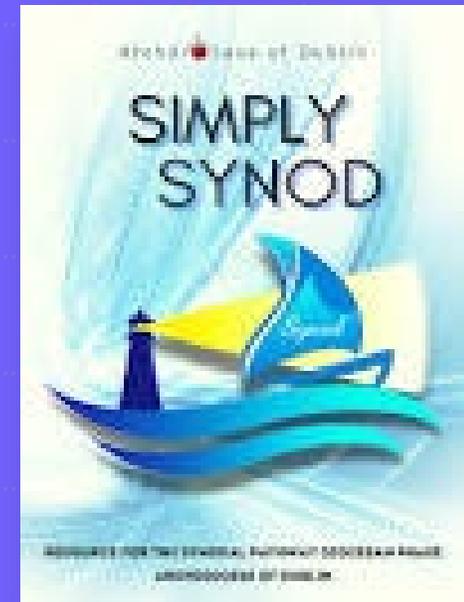
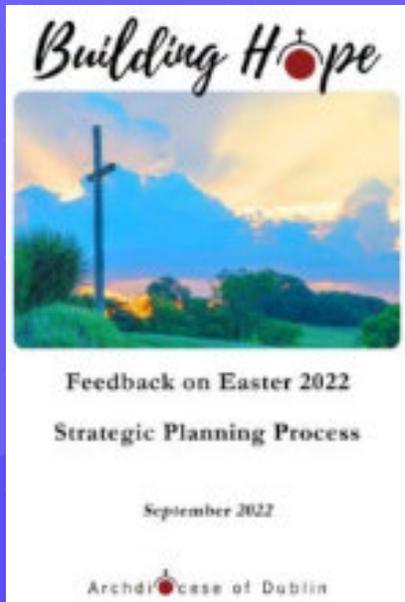
- Keeping in mind the circular reading of the three reports
- Exploring what can be pastorally actioned at parish level
- Aware that we are already in the pastoral phase of Building Hope

Keep in mind Synodal Principles



Synodal reading of Building Hope strategic plan

- Read in a group
- Listen to understand
- Notice where God is calling, in an atmosphere of prayer
- Share on what is practically emerging for you
- Name some practical steps that can be actioned at local level and who can do this
- See Simply Synod Booklet Pages 11, 14 – 16,



PARISH TASK



- In light of Building Hope and our Synodal pathway, what priorities in parish are emerging for us?
- What realistic pastoral actions can we name?