Synodality: The 2027 Stage of Pathways to Implementation

'Local Churches are asked to continue their daily journey with a synodal methodology of consultation and discernment, identifying concrete ways and formation pathways to bring about a tangible synodal conversion.' Final Document #9

The General Secretariat of the Synod has called on all dioceses to **recollect** the synodal journey they have undertaken since the opening of the Synod on Synodality in October 2021: to write a **report**, hold a **Diocesan Evaluation Assembly** and write a **Letter to the Churches** by 30th June 2027.

The responsibility for the process belongs to each diocesan bishop, with the collaboration of the diocesan synodal teams to which the organisation and coordination of the work are entrusted.

The synodal team's first task is to gather stories and experiences that show how the diocese has grown and journeyed in recent years, recognising what continues to bring life to the Church, and, in God's presence, draft a Narrative Report for discernment during the Diocesan Evaluation Assembly.

To help prepare the draft Report for the Evaluation Assembly, **all baptised members** are invited to:

- prayerfully reflect on the journey undertaken during the implementation phase of the Synod;
- recognise with gratitude the fruits which have matured;
- acknowledge the difficulties and challenges encountered;
- take time to discern where the Spirit is at work in their lives and communities today;
- open themselves up to the future God is preparing for them.

Every community will have its own story to tell. Some may have experienced improved relationships, more opportunities for shared responsibility, new ways of making decisions together and/or a deeper commitment to mission. Others may be learning to listen more deeply to one another and practise Conversations in the Spirit, whilst others may only be taking their first steps towards synodal renewal.

From the Diocese of Dunkeld Synodality Core Group:

No matter where you are on the synodal journey, you are all invited to reflect on what has taken root and fully matured, what is still developing, what new possibilities are beginning to emerge in your community and what have been the challenges and obstacles on the way.

Having reflected on your own experiences and, in the light of all that has emerged, every parish community (as well as other groups, such as religious communities and house groups) is invited and encouraged to submit a short narrative about your journey so far. Keep it simple. There is no right or wrong story. We are all on a journey and all at different stages.

The main question for reflection is:

In what ways are new paths of synodality beginning to emerge, are already there, or could be transformed in your community?

Some helpful supporting questions are:

- Where have new ways of communication, participation and mission been emerging in your parish/community?
- Synodality is a spiritual style: how are deep listening, discernment, co-responsibility and mission progressively shaping your community's way of life?
- How are your ways of listening to one another, working alongside each other and collaborating being transformed?
- Withe regard to matters concerning your parish/community, what is changing in the way you reflect, discern, take decisions, exercise responsibility and become more transparent and accountable?
- How are relationships with other Catholic and ecumenical communities, believers of other religions and local organisations growing?
- How is the present work of your community leading to evangelisation through the process of spiritual renewal, structural reform?

"What emerged throughout the entire synodal journey was the call for a Church with a greater capacity to nurture relationships: with the Lord, between men and women, in the family, in the local community, among social groups and religions, with all of creation." Final Document #50

Sending in your submissions:

Please send all submissions to Paul Allaker, (paul.allaker@dunkelddiocese.org.uk) who is collating the narratives on behalf of the Diocese of Dunkeld Synodality Core Group. We ask that you send in your submission by **Friday 18th December 2026**. Thank you.