

Diocesan participation in the Synodal Process – Sunday Oct 16th

Stage One questions for the Parish

St John, Stapleford & Our Lady and St Thomas, Ilkeston

Dear parishioners,

As you will have heard at Mass, Pope Francis has launched a 'Church-wide listening process' in preparation for the Synod of Bishops in 2023 which is entitled 'For a synodal Church: communion participation and mission'.

As the first step this process it has been asked that we consider two questions. Ideally it would have been best to meet together in person to discuss these questions, but the time frame that we have been given of two weeks makes this very difficult for me to arrange. I would therefore like to ask if you would do the following: The first is to pray the prayer of the Synod, of which you have been given a copy. I have plenty more should you wish to share it with others. The second is to take some time to answer the questions which have been posed.

1) What is my dream for the Church, for my parish so that it can become more outward-looking, more missionary?

2) to achieve this dream, what do we need to stop doing? What are we doing that needs to be developed or done differently?

I would encourage you to answer in as much detail as possible, remembering that our responses should have the goal to make people holy and respond to the call of salvation. You may answer on the back of this letter, or on a separate piece of paper, give it to me directly, or by drop it off in the designated box. You may also email it to me. Please also to include your contact details if possible so that if I need clarification then I can seek if from you.

Finally, can I ask that your responses are with me by Sunday, 7th of November so that I can collate them and present them at the deanery meeting that following Thursday.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Andrew