



Synodality is discerning how the Spirit is moving through and with the Body of Christ. The entire history of the Catholic Church shows us a Church that journeys together. Jesus Christ walked with his apostles and disciples from town to town. The early Christian community gathered together for prayer, worship and consultation.

Our Holy Father has invited us to “journey together” so that we may add our voices to those of Catholics worldwide – and to invite people of other faith journeys into the conversation around the central themes of Communion, Participation and Mission. These are some conversation topics for reflection as we may prepare our hearts and pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance for the Parish Synod at Saint Mary Magdalen Catholic Church.

COMMUNION

COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY

Jesus wants us to walk together, side by side.

- Who accompanies you on your faith journey?
- Who do you accompany?
- How do we as Catholics do at walking side-by-side?
- Who do you feel is included on the church’s local journey? Who is not included or welcomed?

LISTENING

Listening is the first step – it requires an open mind and heart, without prejudice.

- How good are we Catholics at listening?
- Who do we need to listen to more?
- Whose voices are not heard?

SPEAKING OUT

Everyone is invited to speak boldly and courageously in freedom, truth and love.

- How good are we as Catholics at speaking out in public?
- How do we say what is important to us as Catholics?
- What helps or hinders our public visibility?

CELEBRATION

For Catholics, ‘togetherness’ is gathering to explore the Gospels (Word) and break bread (Eucharist).

- What inspires you in your relationship with Jesus?
- How important are prayer and liturgical celebrations in guiding your participation in the Church?
- How does our gathering for prayer (including Mass) meet people’s needs?

PARTICIPATION

SHARING RESPONSIBILITY

Our Church is all about participation and shared responsibility.

- In what ways are you called to share your gifts and talents with the Church community?
- Catholics aim to balance authority, teamwork and co-responsibility between clergy, church leaders and the faithful of our parish community. How well do we achieve this?

DISCERNMENT AND DECISION-MAKING

Our aim is to discern what the Holy Spirit is saying through our whole community.

- How well do you feel we do this?
- What methods or processes do Catholic communities use to include people in discernment and decision-making?

FORMED TO JOURNEY TOGETHER

All of us need to be open to change and receive ongoing learning and formation to be Synodal.

- To what extent do you find Catholics are open to change and new learning?
- How do we as a faith community form our people to listen, participate and be open to change?
- Have you found Church leaders willing to listen, participate and open to new ways?

MISSION

COMMON MISSION

Walking together enables all to accept our mission to actively share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

- What about your faith sets your heart on fire?
- How exactly do you share that excitement and awe with others outside your immediate family? With believers? With non-believers?
- Do we as Catholics take our mission seriously? What stops us from being active in mission?

OUR CONVERSATIONS

Genuine conversation requires humility and patience but leads to understanding.

- How good are we at conversation – both listening and sharing?
- Good conversation leads to collaboration – how, and how well, do we collaborate as Catholics in our community?
- In what ways could we dialogue and collaborate better with others on the “outside” who live on the fringes of society – whether it be economic, social or religious?

WALKING WITH OTHERS IN FAITH

Walking with other Christians is essential to our mission to share the Good News.

- How well do we know our sisters and brothers in other churches?
- What do we share and how do we journey with Christians from other denominations?