

# Preparing for the Synod



The synodal process is a time of 'journeying together'. It is also a time to reflect together on the journey. We begin by listening to one another, sharing our experience of travelling together in a time of profound change, intensified by the challenging time of the pandemic. And we will consider our wider experience of journeying together, as members of the Church and alongside others journeying in the world.

Speaking to people in the Diocese of Rome, Pope Francis said: "I have come here to encourage you to take this synodal process seriously and to tell you that the Holy Spirit needs you. And this is true: the Holy Spirit needs us. Listen to it by listening to yourself. Don't leave anyone out or behind."

## Listening to others – and to myself – a prayer

Teach me to listen, O God, to myself. Help me to be less afraid to trust the voice inside —in the deepest part of me.

Teach me to listen, Holy Spirit, for your voice —in busyness and in boredom, in certainty and doubt, in noise and in silence.

Teach me to listen, O God, to those nearest to me: my family, my friends, my neighbours. Help me to be aware that no matter what words I hear, the message is: "Accept the person I am. Listen to me."

Teach me to listen, my caring God, to those far from me—the whisper of the hopeless, the plea of the forgotten, the cry of the anguished. Amen

## Events in the parish

Come and join with other people in the parish and take part in the preparation for the Synod:

- St John's Trowbridge, Tuesday 18 January, 7.00-8.30pm
- St Bernadette's Westbury, Tuesday 25 January, 7.00-8.30pm
- Online via Zoom, Tuesday 1 February, 7.00-8.30pm