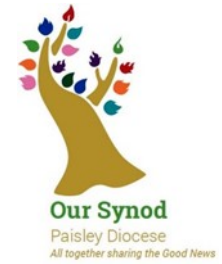


Our Paisley Synod Newsletter

News from Session Two



“Synod will show a radical total trust in the laity”

Bishop John Keenan



Delegates gathered at Notre Dame High School Greenock for the second Synod session on Saturday 7th May - there was a real sense of being part of something exciting and inspiring. This week's theme was on developing our faith. The feedback from the groups *overwhelmingly* supported the need for some Faith formation and discipleship training within the Diocese. The main discussion of the day was on how this could be implemented; focusing on meeting the needs of individuals, parishes, families, youth and the wider society.

Discipleship and Formation

Monsignor Denis Carlin

Our formation must be fit for purpose. Moses led the people for 40 years towards the promised land. It was long and arduous and they had to get used to being uncomfortable and no longer being slaves. Some wanted to go back to the security of slavery of Egypt and enjoy a dependant mentality.

Our centre is Christ. We need to know Christ and follow him, but how do we know Jesus? Firstly, we know Him through Scripture. Jesus is the fulfilment of prayers and prophecies in Scripture. Secondly we are close to Christ through prayer and the Eucharist. We are a community, especially around the Eucharist as the source of our strength. And thirdly, we need to know our history - our faults and our blessings. No formation gives all the answers. We need continuing professional development in our faith as individuals and as communities. Karl Barth said, “We need to know our side well. Preach with the Bible in one hand and a newspaper in the other.”

Jesus died and rose. He poured out his Spirit and that motivates us and gives us confidence in our faith and a need to share it. Embrace the treasure of our faith and pass it on.



“I challenge you to design a Faith formation programme which is accessible, relevant and one that *you would attend*”.

Barbara Coupar: Chair of the Paisley Diocesan Synod



Group Discussion

The Synod delegate groups engaged the topic firstly from the perspective of; ‘Where are we now as a diocese in the area of Faith formation’? Then moved on to; ‘Where is God leading us’?

To refine the focus of the groups the afternoon session asked a specific question; ‘Do you think that the Diocese should have a Faith formation and/or Discipleship programme and if so, what should this look like’?

Shaping Propositions

The Group session in the afternoon was extended and the time was profitably spent developing new proposals for the Diocese in the area of Faith formation. These included;

Concrete strategies to welcome new people into our church.

Collaboration and joint ventures between Catholic communities: parish, school and home.

Targeting; the young, adults, families and those on the fringes of our Catholic community including, becoming, ‘Welcoming parishes’.

Listing resources including; Bible studies, Lectio Divina, RCIA. Also Evangelistic courses, training and much much more.

Bishop John

As the Synod unfolds, we are working together with Our Lady at the centre and we are beginning to believe. This is what the Holy Spirit wants. This is the future of the Church. In the time between the Ascension and Pentecost the Church is waiting for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Where am I in this?

a personal reflection

Where are we as a diocese?

examine ourselves honestly and generously

Where is the Spirit leading us?

what does the Holy Spirit want to say through me

The Holy Spirit is speaking decisively and **speaking through you**; you are responsible. We want to be a Church full of new life to bring about the Kingdom of God.



Next Synod Meeting

The theme is; ‘Christian Community and Communion’ on 21st May 2016.

Paisley Diocesan website:

<http://rcdop.org.uk/diocesan-synod>