



IMPLEMENTING OUR SYNOD

We do not need to wait for approval from Rome to begin implementing the conclusions of our Synod. Nor is the **Synod Document** a 'one-size-fits-all' Pastoral Plan because we are all at different stages on our journey, with different strengths and challenges.

One suggestion is to set up an **Implementation Team** who will keep us fed with resources, concentrating on one or two Charter points at a time. Another suggestion is for parishes, schools and groups to create a '**star and wish**' plan for development, choosing from the Charter a star they are good at and a wish to work towards, and then they carry out some self-evaluation of how they have done.



And, in the spirit of the Synod, we are looking for suggestions from parishes and delegates as to how we should proceed, as well as for volunteers to offer themselves to help.

GETTING INVOLVED

We need volunteer to help take our diocese forward through the Synod. If you have ideas, energy, useful skills or are just really interested please let your parish priest know so that he can get in touch and let us get to know you and soon Paisley diocese really will be **all together sharing the Good News!**




For information contact
curia@redop.org.uk

All together sharing the Good News

Our Paisley Diocesan Synod

Moving Forward.....

Our Lady of Paisley; pray for us



Our Synod
 Paisley Diocese



OUR SYNOD

We held Our Paisley Synod before summer and 150 delegates –laity, nuns, clergy and societies - from all over our diocese came together to pray and discern the will of the Holy Spirit for our diocese. They discussed four themes raised by our year-long consultation, that: (i) all Catholics, whether priests or people, are full members of the Church by baptism; (ii) we need good formation; (iii) we want to be a welcoming, inclusive Church; and (iv) we want to share the Good News in the world.

Delegates felt the laity were happy to take responsibility and work with our priests but they wanted formation to be evangelisers in our parishes, at home and in work. An over-arching theme was to be welcoming communities, inviting everyone to be involved and reaching out to those excluded. They were concerned about young people, links between schools and parishes, families who were struggling, family members who lost their way and the poor and lonely. Many thought our language could be easier to understand and they asked for Church structures to be open to them and for good communications.

OUR PAISLEY CHARTER

Our Synod culminated with delegates voting to pass a ten point **Charter** for our diocese for us to implement in the generation ahead. With the help of **Our Lady of Paisley** we will be a diocese of:

- ◆ **Collaborative ministry** of clergy and laity working hand in hand
- ◆ **Evangelisation**, sharing the Good News from our lived, personal faith
- ◆ **Formation of the laity** at every stage so we are well trained to know our faith, how to live it and how to pass it on
- ◆ **Welcoming parishes** where everyone feels they belong
- ◆ **Positive focus on youth**, seeing young people as part of the solution
- ◆ **Openness to all families**, no matter what their circumstances
- ◆ **Outreach to the excluded**, especially the lapsed, the poor and the lonely
- ◆ **Reformed diocesan structures**, so the laity can take real responsibility
- ◆ **Attractive Messengers**, careful with our language and how we proclaim the Gospel
- ◆ **Good Communicators**, active, creative and engaged with our people and the issues of our times

WHERE WE GO NOW

We now have to produce a **Synod Document** and begin to implement the decisions made by delegates acting under the light of the Holy Spirit.

OUR SYNOD DOCUMENT

As well as the 10 point **Charter**, delegates passed a number of **Principles** we need to bring it to life in our parishes as well as recommending **Practicalities** as ideas to help us realise our diocesan vision. This will form the heart of the document.

The bishop is also working with drafters to complete the document by including elements of the **catechesis and consultation** so that it is a work of the Church and the whole diocese and not just of the delegates.

The Final Document will soon be sent to the Vatican for approval and we hope a Vatican archbishop will come to present it to us at a special Diocesan Mass.

Our Synod Document will then become the Holy Spirit's word to our Paisley diocese and we will implement it together in our families, parishes, schools and societies as our common vision for the generation ahead.

