

Please reflect on the seven (7) themes below. These were discerned in the Archdiocesan Synod Synthesis from reading ALL parish syntheses.

Identify which ONE THEME (of the seven) that if the Archdiocese did it very well, in 2023, will help us become closer to being a synodal church. TICK that ONE theme.

THEMES	TICK
<p>Improving Hospitality</p> <p>Jesus is God’s hospitality made flesh. In his travels, Jesus and his disciples depended on the hospitality of strangers for accommodation and sustenance. Moreover, as Christians, we are commanded to “love thy neighbour”. Therefore, hospitality must be integral to the Christian way of life.</p>	
<p>Revitalising Governance and Leadership</p> <p>Being synodal means walking together, side by side, as one human family. This means that the Church must create channels and opportunities for participation, open dialogue, feedback and listening. Embedding these values within the governing bodies of the Church requires responsible leadership, which is too often absent. Many times, seniors are unwilling to step aside and give opportunity to youth. We need balance and inclusivity.</p>	
<p>Strengthening Youth Engagement</p> <p>The world is rapidly changing in response to many secular global trends. Compared with parents and grandparents, there is a marked difference in how youth and young adults perceive Church and religion and how they want to be included in it. Youths are increasingly absent in our parishes.</p> <p>Creating more disciples for Christ among the youth is imperative for the very survival of the Church.</p>	
<p>Improving Technology and Communication in Church</p> <p>Jesus and his disciples preached the Word of God in temples, markets, and public spaces. The public space in today’s world is cyberspace. Today, the Church is called to use all tools at its disposal to communicate the Gospel - “to translate the Gospel for our media-savvy culture.” Communications technology must be leveraged to build awareness and knowledge of the faith. Greater awareness and access of key online information resources will be helpful in strengthening the faith of Catholics.</p>	
<p>Faith Formation and Invigoration – Rescuing the Lost Sheep</p> <p>More than 50 % of the leaders of other Christian faiths attending the Synod consultation admitted to being former members of the Catholic faith. They, and a growing number of non-practising Catholics, have become lost to the faith. It is evident that poorly formed Catholics are principal targets of evangelical churches”. The parable of the lost sheep reminds us that we have a Christian obligation to go out and find them.</p> <p>The Church is called to so train its sheep to reduce the probability of loss.</p>	
<p>Building Community, Inclusivity and Dialogue</p> <p>The Church is called to be committed to dialogue and working with persons of other persuasions in the wider community. There is a general call for all to unite as a community and engage in outreach initiatives and events that serve and embrace all, with a particular focus on youth, elderly and the marginalised (including divorcees, persons who are separated and widowed, those in common-law relationships, single mothers, members of the LGBTQ+ community, the mentally ill, migrants, refugees, homeless, differently-abled, poor, older-single community, shut-ins, illiterate, drug addicts, ex-convicts, prisoners).</p>	
<p>How we Celebrate and Worship</p> <p>“Don’t change the Mass, change everything else”. This was a single voice during the consultation responding to the widely held view that “Church (Mass) is boring” and needs to be re-examined. Liturgies must be spiritual, moving and relevant. What emerges is that, in general, “Catholics want a faith-filled Church that is witnessing to the love of Jesus Christ in daily life.”</p>	