

Synodal Responses. – Face of the Synodal Church.

1. Synodality: Experience and Understanding

The experience of the Church for many in Glasgow remains as a kind of huddle where there is a danger of inward looking and protectionism rather than evangelization. - we are gathered but afraid to be sent. We need to build an outward looking church.

In particular we need to envision a church in which God is moving among us in everyday life. Too often there is an orientation to attracting people INTO church buildings - rather than seeking the church OUT among the people who are the church.

A number of adherents to the Tridentine Mass feel their voice is not being listened to. They have no wish to create another church but have the desire for Mass in another Rite as other communities do. They feel aggrieved.

2. Gathered and Sent by the Trinity

The work of the Archdiocese in its policies of evangelization are certainly helping us to form communities of action and engagement. We experience ourselves as a local church but not a diocesan community. The revised Deanery structures should help in this process, since sharing among parishes is a feature of new systems. Of course, parish rationalisation will have a positive and a negative effect on this.

A primary focus for the church is the need to engage young people.

3. Entering the Community of Faith: Christian Initiation

Community is restricted to parish life.

The RCIA work well, but numbers are characteristically very small. Baptism tacked onto the end of Mass is not welcoming, and a more wholesome initiation into church would be welcomed.

4. People in Poverty, Protagonists of the Church's Journey

There is an impoverishment... especially of hope and inner development. The Church has an obligation to rectify this, but it can only tackle immediate needs not the causes. Politicians need to act. Dialogue with elected members with real peoples' concerns. We could be better at engaging young people here.

The quiet but faithfully consistent work of the St Vincent de Paul was acknowledged, and through this build a church that is interested and involved in tackling poverty.

5. A Church "out of every tribe, tongue, people and nation"

There is little doubt that there are huge resources of people and expertise in the archdiocese that are not being used.

6. The Eastern Churches and Latin Church Traditions

There is a fairly mono-denominational approach to Christianity in the Archdiocese, although the presence of the Syro-Malabar community, for example, gives hope for wider recognition of eastern denominations.

7. On the Road Towards Christian Unity

There is a welcome decrease in the amount of prejudice and bigotry which has previously been a feature of the West of Scotland.

Synodal Responses. - All Disciples Missionaries.

8. Church is Mission

At present there are many occasions when the marginalised seemed to remain marginalised by the structures and activities of the church.

9. Women in the Life and Mission of the Church

There is a continuing deep frustration about the lack of progress in this area.

The question of women's ordination is met with mixed views. Concern exists that many women feel active only in minimal roles.

It is imperative that women can participate in decision-making processes and assume roles of responsibility in pastoral care and ministry. Theological & pastoral access of women to the diaconate should be continued. It's extremely important that that we know what the actual attitudes towards women as deacons are among the laity. Furthermore, we must find out through research what women actually want their roles to be in the future of the church.

The rejected 1998 translation of the Roman Missal, should be looked at again, as being a superior and more appropriate translation than the current one. The power of language should

never be under-estimated - it's particularly essential to be able to capture the imaginations and aspirations of the young.

We recognise that we have already lost generations through our inactivity. We must try to recapture the youth and so we need young adults, who can still remember what it's like to be bored teenagers, talking to today's bored teenagers about a living and active faith. We need to abandon our own reticence and learn to be open with other people about our faith and what it means to us.

10. Consecrated Life and Lay Associations and Movements: a Charismatic Sign

These are important and the central parts of the life of the church and should be fostered as areas for development and inspiration.

11. Deacons and Priests in a Synodal Church

There is a desire to take diaconate out of the pathway to priesthood, therefore opening it to women.

12. The Bishop in Ecclesial Communion

13. The Bishop of Rome in the College of Bishops

The inspiration of Pope Francis remains unimportant aspect of the life and work of the Church

Synodal Responses. – Bonds & Communities.

14. A Synodal Approach to Formation

There needs to be a more effective synodal approach to all formation and the daily life of the church at every level.

15. Ecclesial Discernment and Open Questions

The archdiocese is developing the sound approach to its evolution and the creation of new deaneries and pastoral areas have been significant aspects of this

16. Towards a Listening and Accompanying Church

We are better characterised as a “talking Church” than a listening one, it is the responsibility of all the Baptised to listen and accompany each other. To welcome the stranger and to walk together, we need to “de centre ourselves” Church teaching needs to be clear. The worlds attitudes are affecting the church.

Voluntary celibacy was viewed as an option for some, but not all. Not everyone has been free to make their life choices: for example, there are those who are unmarried, not from choice but because they have never found the right partner and thus have been excluded from marriage and the opportunity to be parents. Like the elderly and the ill, they often feel excluded and ignored. We also feel that the people of God who do not belong to any specific marginalised group, have a right to be heard by their bishops on matters of significance, as, for one example, in the matter of the reform of the language of the Missal. We were very conscious of having the current translation of the Missal & Lectionary foisted on us and have endured it now for many years, putting up with unsympathetic translations and obscure and

archaic expressions, which have alienated many. The faithful deserve better treatment! Much "listening" and working with marginalised people is already being done by many formal Church organisations, but often the people of God in the parishes are unaware that this is happening, and we feel that a much greater emphasis should be placed on communicating to the people in the pews what is being done in their name.

Radcliffe & Popko's book "Questioning God" portrays God as asking us questions rather than prescribing rules for us "- Where are you? - What are you talking about? - What do you want? "etc. In other words, we must not be prescriptive, but must be open to people's needs.

17. Mission in the Digital Environment

Streaming has been immensely beneficial to the housebound and those who cannot attend.

The archdiocese needs to invest in media technology especially to communicate with generations of people under 25 years of age.

The capacity for Artificial Intelligence to be used is enormous.

18. Structures for Participation

There are increasing structures for participation through Pastoral Areas and deaneries.

Catechesis in schools could be improved and family prayer.

19. Groupings of Churches within the Communion of the Whole Church

There are opportunities for greater groupings within the Catholic Church, links with other Christian churches have been slow to develop.

20. The Synod of Bishops and Ecclesial Assemblies

It is useful to have Synodal Assemblies – so long as they address the issues that the laity wish addressed. There is a danger of continuing to provide answers to questions that nobody is asking, in a language that nobody understands!