Archdiocese of Glasgow

Comments on the European Synod Document (DCS)

As a general comment it is important to recognise that Pope Francis is seeking a Church of evangelisation and mission. There is no blueprint for this.

1   The issues which resonated most strongly were:
   a. Those who engaged with the synodal process found it profoundly rewarding. (Para 15 - 17-1.1)
   b. The Church requires to be enriched by hearing and acting on the voices and views of all God's children.
   c. There is much greater scope for ecumenical working at all levels.(Para 1.2).
   d. Developing the Church internally with co-responsibility of clergy and of laity.
   e. There are issues that are specific to religions, denominations, and indeed to countries and parishes.

2   The areas of substantial tension or divergence were:
   a. The tension is between a Synodal Church in which the processes of learning, formation and discernment are more significant than a Church to which relies on doctrine and tradition alone. Clericalism can be a big source of tension.
   b. Attention should be given to the significant work done in Catholic institutions and most notably in schools which have a vital role in the synodal process.
   c. The need for developing a Church in which everyone has their part to play.
   d. The language of the Church has to be accessible to all. There is a gap between church and culture.

3   The priorities and recurring themes to which special attention should be given are:
   a. The Synod might wish to consider *"A Vision Statement"* that invites discernment and reconciliation of its purpose in the modern world-A Church that invites ways of being inspired by The Holy Spirit.
   b. Finding ways of hearing the voices of as many people as possible. Better communication.
   c. The urge for a Church in which everyone is welcomed and has a means of expressing their voice – especially young people and youth.
   d. Some attention needs to be given to the decision-making and structures, especially in relation to women.

The use of technology and especially social media as a force for faith development.