

All nine Deaneries in our Archdiocese made a submission to the synodal process. Individual people also made their thoughts known. Primary and Secondary schools were invited to respond and many did. Groups within our diocesan family contributed, the Deaf Community, SPRED, Una Voce, and many more. Thankyou to all who contributed, as individuals or groups. Thanks to our Deans for arranging the Deanery Synthesis and to our Diocesan Team for the work they put in to bring the whole thing together. My grateful thanks to Gillian Graham, Agnes Mc Gown, Marrison Coll, Palo Dzurjanik, Sheena Gault, Lyndsey Short, Frank Mac Donald, Bart Mc Gettrick, and John Kennedy.

Throughout this process these past few months, its so blatantly obvious that many of our people are so grateful for the faith they have been given. They appreciate our parishes, they appreciate our schools. And they want better. They care about their parishes, they care about those who do not get the same out of the gift of faith they have and they are opened hearted and opened handed and wish them to get from it what they get from it. This document is a huge testimony to the faith of the people of Glasgow.

But our faithful people know all is not well- they desire change, not for changes sake but for the sake of the gospel- and its credibility. Our people want an inclusive church, a dynamic church, an open church. A church involved with the big questions of today, not hiding in a false notion of the past and arguing over minutia.

There is a desire for development, for growth, for faith, for God. We need to harness this desire at parish level, at school level , at deanery level at diocesan level and at the level of the universal church. Perhaps parishes could re visit their own contributions looking for quick fixes” addressing suggestions that have surfaced at parish level. Deaneries too could revisit their submission and identify ways for parishes to work together in the locality. Many noted they enjoyed the experience of parishes coming together to synthesise their deanery response in the style of the previous “Extended deanery meetings” involving both clergy and laity in the process.

When the document was handed to the Archbishop at a beautiful sung Evening Prayer for Corpus Christi in our Cathedral, expertly led by the Saint Mungo’s Singers, Archbishop Nolan reflected on how its easy to accept that Jesus is present in the Eucharist but maybe we are not so used to reflecting on the Holy Spirit dwelling within and working in each other. We have shared and talked, reflected and prayed. Now it time to move with the Spirits guidance and

continue to walk together as companions on the way guided by the Holy Spirit of God.