



St Mary's
Parish
Haddington
Road

Serving the
community

Serving the
city



DIOCESAN SYNODAL PATHWAY

October 2021 – April 2022

Source: Archdiocese of Dublin



An Invitation

You are warmly invited to two Synodal gatherings in our parish this month. The word "synodal" means journeying together and these gatherings will be an opportunity to share and listen to each other's experience of Church, in an organised, gentle and prayerful environment.

Why are you being invited?

Pope Francis has asked all of us to take part in sharing and listening to each other and to the Spirit. In this way we are beginning to lay foundations for our future together.

The invitation is to all the baptised. Eventually, all the responses will be collected in time for the 2023 Synod in Rome.

What will happen at the gatherings?

Parish Animators have been trained to lead the gatherings in a reflective, prayerful atmosphere. Questions will be presented each evening and people will gather in small groups to share on each question and listen to each other.

Each small group will have a leader who will help everyone to have the opportunity to share and will collect the feedback from the group.

Questions

First gathering:

*When you think of your experience of Church, what brings joy?
When you think of your experience of Church, what brings sorrow?*

Second gathering:

*When you think of your experience of Church, what brings hope?
When you think of your experience of Church, what brings fear or anxiety?*

Please remember we are being asked to listen with understanding, to respect each other's experiences, and to try to walk in the other person's shoes.

What will happen to the feedback?

The Animators, will sort the feedback into similar themes. This will form the basis for a Report to the Diocese. The feedback will be used by the Parish Team and Parish Pastoral Council to help in pastoral planning.

When and where will these gatherings happen?

Time: 7:30pm **Date:** 21 March 2022

Venue: Community Room in the church (opposite the Sacristy)

Time: 7:30pm **Date:** 29 March 2022

Venue: Community Room in the church (opposite the Sacristy)

How can you prepare for this?

Please go to the Dublin Diocesan website www.dublindiocese.ie/synod where you will find information and Videos to help you.

Safeguarding and confidentiality guidelines will be in place. Gatherings will be Covid compliant.