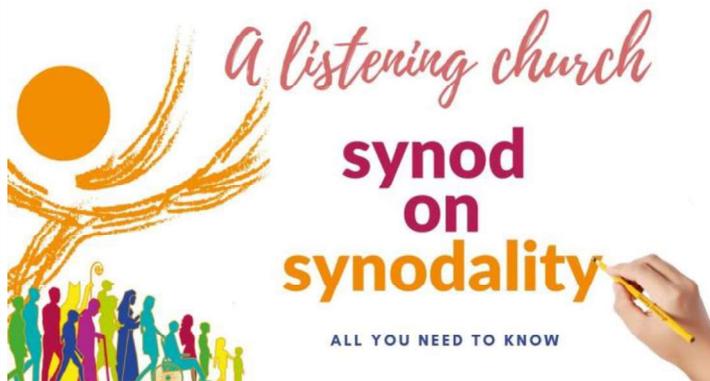


# Synod on Synodality

Let us Walk Together, Talk to Each Other,  
and Listen to the Holy Spirit!

## CALLANDER FEEDBACK



Following a series of meetings during the past three months, the final meeting of those who embarked on the Synodal Path of prayer, reflection and discussion on contemporary Catholicism has now taken place. After seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, in group discussion several areas were identified as positive, however the group also identified seven key areas of concern which are summarised below, and which will be forwarded to the diocesan offices. The participants were conscious of being part of a world-wide dialogue and drew inspiration from the resources and online talks hosted by organisations such as Root and Branch and The Scottish Laity Network.

**The Use and Abuse of Power:** The desire to see an end to the culture of silence in the Church which stems from a lack of accountability. Hierarchy and clericalism are key issues to be addressed.

**Exclusion:** To exclude certain groups of people from full participation in Church services is

unacceptable. Social inclusion, rooted in Gospel values, should be our default position.

**The Sanctity of Life:** The modern world has presented challenges which demand a deeper and more transparent response to the complex aspects of both the beginning and the end of life.

**Canon Law:** The relationship between Canon Law and contemporary political ideals is difficult to grasp, in particular the Human Rights Act.

**The Role of Women:** Equality of opportunity demands that the appointment of female Deacons and Priests should become a priority. Ending a male-dominated hierarchy would assist the rehabilitation of the Church in the eyes of many.

**The Priestly Vocation:** While celibacy may continue to be a requirement for religious orders, should it remain so for Diocesan Priests?

**The Liturgy:** We are told that in the future the Church will likely come to reflect the early years of Christianity. If so, will it not be both necessary and desirable for the laity to become much more involved in the conduct of Church services?

**We eagerly anticipate the progress of the Synodal Path throughout 2022 and 2023, from parish to diocesan level, and ultimately to its culmination in Rome under Pope Francis.**

*I would like to thank those on the Parish group (Doune & Callander) who undertook this Synodal Path of prayer, reflection and discussion on contemporary Catholicism, and who have taken the time to contribute to the world-wide dialogue taking place on the Synodal journey of the Catholic Church.*

*Fr Leszek, Parish Priest*