



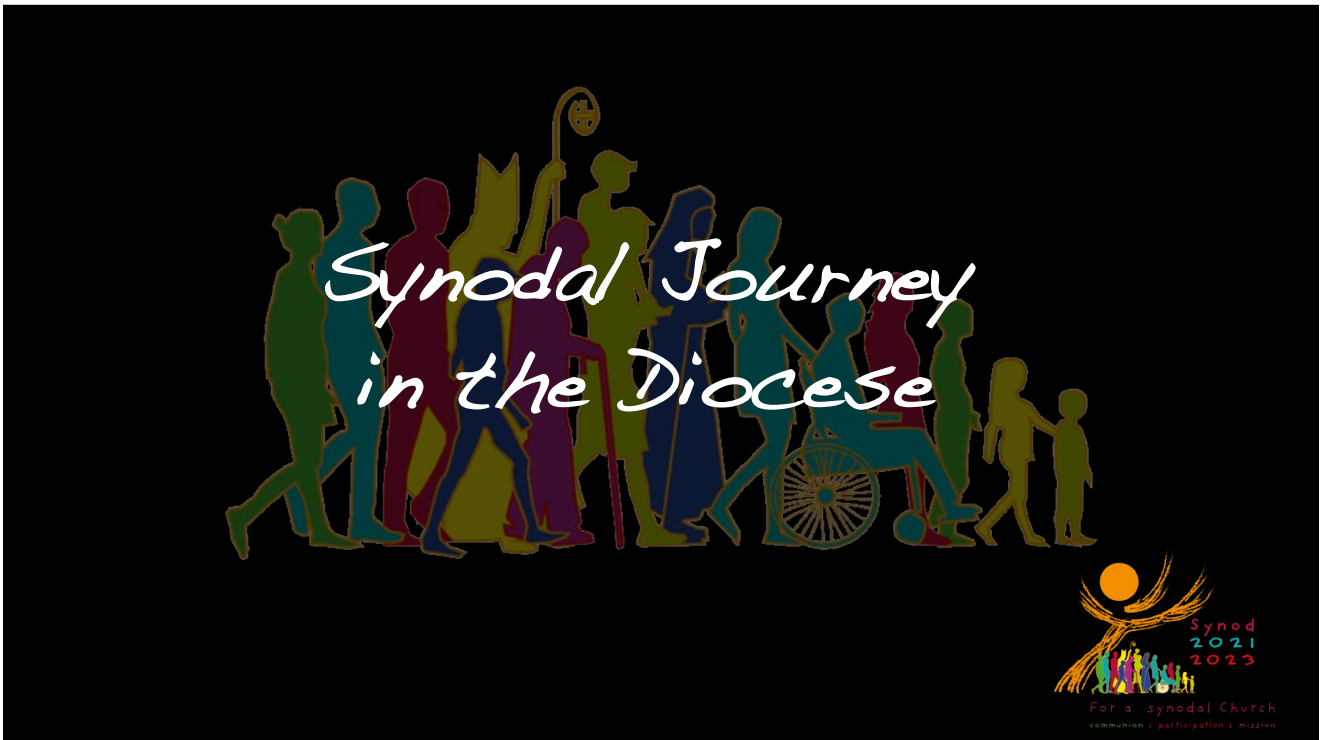
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Our purpose

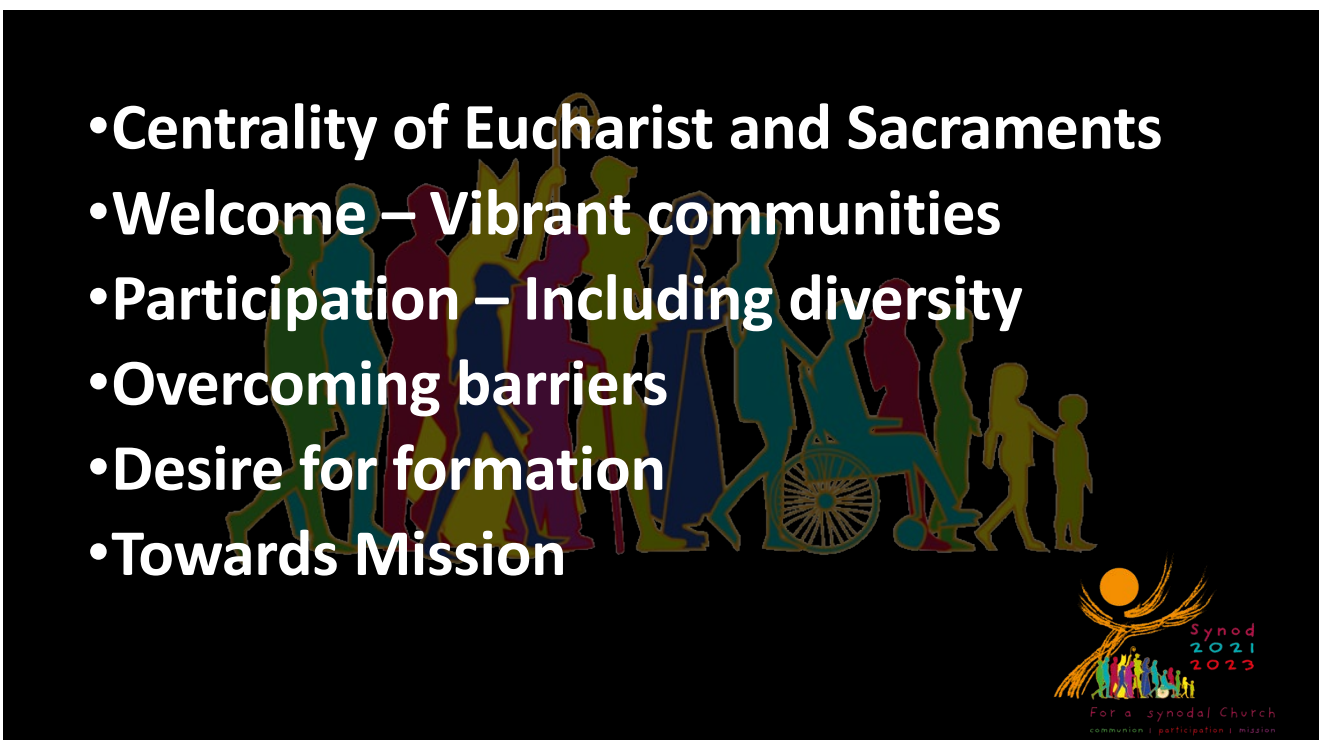
To continue exploring our journey towards becoming a synodal Church. We may still be asking what this actually means and how it works in a parish, or wondering how we can move things forward, building on our conversations and listening to one another... or even how to get started.

For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

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- Eucharist
- Inclusion
- Leadership and responsibility
- Language to communicate
- Reaching out to the margins
- Prayer, listening and synodality
- Our future is to be shaped by us
- We are one: a people of compassion and hope


Bishop Declan



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Share in pairs/threes

- Hearing these afresh, what strikes you? What gives you hope?



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Paint a picture of possibility

“Prepare the Future” – Pope Francis

- **This is about possibility, not doubt!**
- **What might this look like for you and your communities?**
- **Imagine the areas which give you life. Where do you see yourself in the picture?**



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Paint a picture of possibility

“Prepare the Future” – Pope Francis



Paint a Portrait not a landscape



Paint a picture of possibility

- **What might this look like for you and your communities?**

Eg:

Synodal Pastoral Council

A vital part of local civil society

Working with young people inside AND outside of the Church community





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Five Guiding Principles of accompaniment

1. Expect the Holy Spirit's Presence
2. Stand Aside
3. Tune into the divine – listening and discerning
4. Gradualness
5. Movement towards Human Flourishing



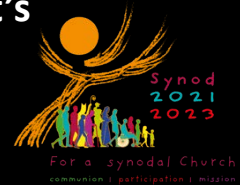
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1. Expect the Holy Spirit's Presence

*"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, **there am I in the midst of them.**" (Matt. 18:19–20)*

- God's Spirit is always present in all people.
- If we truly believe this:

**How do we approach one another?
How do we pay attention and reverence to the Holy Spirit's presence?**



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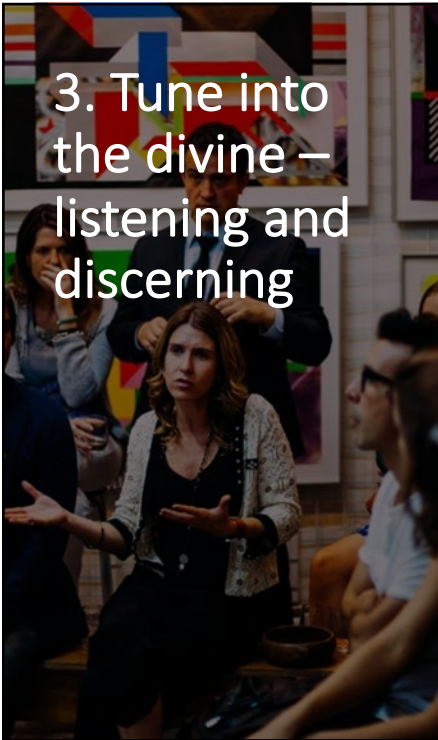
2. Stand aside

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. Isaiah 55:8

- We 'stand aside', creating a sacred space, focused on the desire to listen to the working of the Spirit.
- We 'park' our own needs and agendas, lose our ego and pre-conceived judgements.



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3. Tune into the divine – listening and discerning

“Listen to his voice and harden not your hearts” Hebrews 3:15

- Our synodal meetings have as their deepest purpose the discernment of God’s will.
- They are distinct from usual conversations or business meetings.
- We tune into the life of the Divine.



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4. Gradualness

“Time is greater than space” (Evangelii Gaudium, #222)

- We are free of the need to be focused on reaching a specific destination. The end is not ours to determine.
- We are humbly concerned with the next step within the movement of the Spirit.



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5. Movement towards Human Flourishing



“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD’ Jer 29:11

- We focus on God’s intent to see every human person flourish (fully alive).
- We notice (and celebrate) that the Spirit is alive and active
- Movement is always present. Perhaps small steps, or in a different direction than expected.
- It may appear, even in apparent stuckness!



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Reflect together

- How might these principles help your parish to continue to develop as a synodal Church?
 1. Expect the Holy Spirit’s Presence
 2. Stand Aside
 3. Tune into the divine – listening & discerning
 4. Gradualness
 5. Movement towards Human Flourishing



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WAYS THAT PEOPLE PARTICIPATE

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

| HELPING | REACTIVE | RESPONSIVE | STRATEGIC | SUPPORTIVE | GENERATIVE | ENGAGING |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| I <i>help</i> out by doing things | I <i>react</i> to things that happen and say when things go badly, or when they go well | I <i>respond</i> when asked for my view or opinion | I <i>operate</i> at a strategic level and influence policy, projects or organisations | I <i>support</i> projects and schemes that are already happening | I <i>generate</i> new projects, organisations or initiatives, based on seeing something is missing | I <i>engage</i> , catalyse, connect or encourage others |

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Discuss

Which 'archetypes' typically engage with activities in your parish? Which 'archetypes' don't engage very often?

Who would you like to engage more? What could you engage them with?

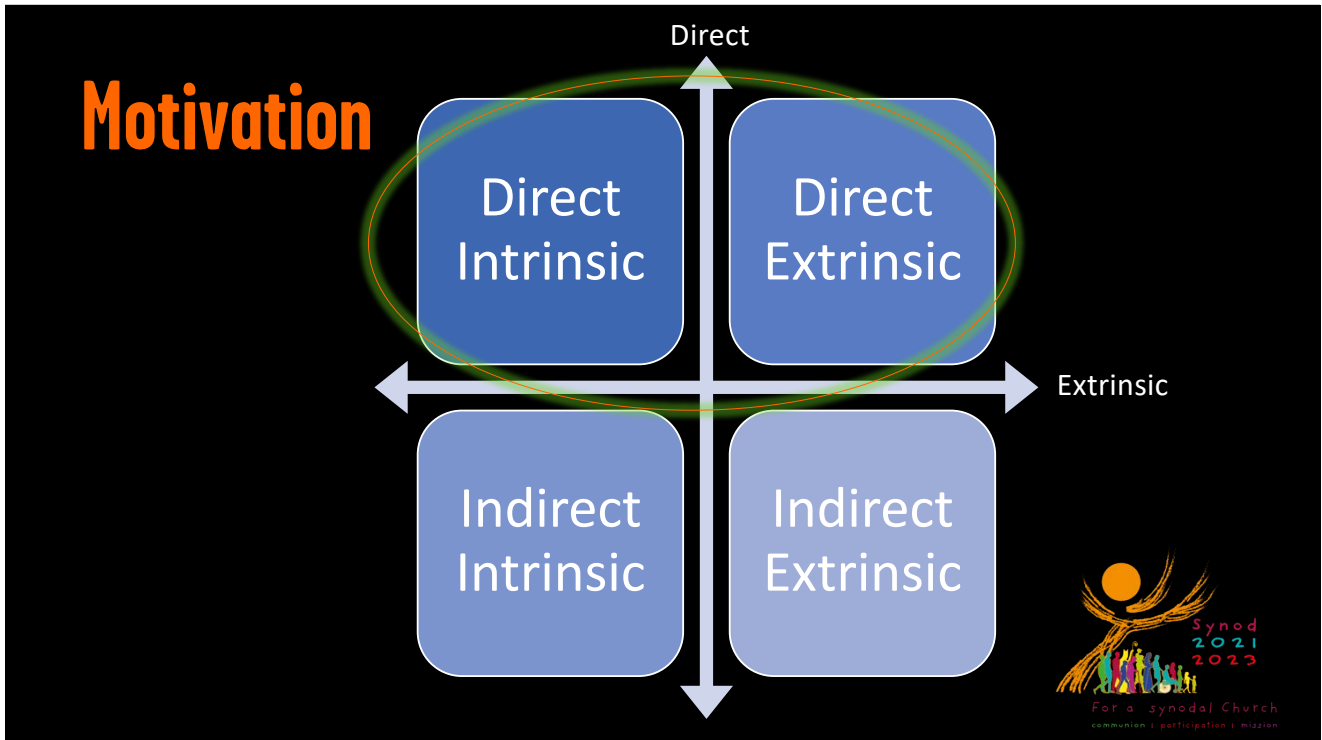


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CYCLE OF ENGAGEMENT



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CYCLE OF ENGAGEMENT

ACROSS THE PARISH

- 1) Things looking, sounding and feeling different
- 2) Opportunities to engage interest (not commitment)
- 3) Developing a range of roles and responsibilities
- 4) Bite size opportunities to find out more
- 5) Support – communication
- 6) ACTION

One to one / Small groups

- 1) We're thinking about and hoping...
- 2) Would it be good for us to do this?
- 3) I think you've got something to bring (co-create opportunity)
- 4) Check the 'yes'
- 5) What Support is needed?
- 6) ACTION


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Keeping on track


| Parish | | Cycle Stage | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | |
|--|----|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|---|---------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| Level and depth of engagement | | Next steps (latest plan) | ... Aware?" | ...plan to get them interested | ... Interested?" | ... plan to get them discovering. | ... Discovering?" | ... plan to facilitate a powerful choice. | ... Decided?" | ...plan to get them ready. | ... Prepa |
| Engager process: | # | @ Stage | Name: | Contact details: | Response they gave: | What CY offers: | Their motivation: | (Role + Motivation) | Role/task: | Training plan | |
| 1) Ask "Is (Name) ..." | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 3 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 4 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2) Think how to engage (Name) and... (SZ...) | 5 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 6 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 7 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 8 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3) Discern stage reached by recording... | 9 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 10 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 11 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 12 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4) B, Y, B -> C! | 13 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 14 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5) Review at 6 months | 15 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 16 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 17 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 18 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 19 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 20 | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | 25 | | | | | | | | | | |

Toolkit for Key People
 End of initial 3 month cycle - decision to start CY.
 Details allows contacts' motivations to be married to roles.

discover contacts' motivations.

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What is needed to move them on one step?

PARSE AWARENESS

→ ACTION

NEEDS / BARRIERS

- Vicki (custodian)

STIMULATE INTEREST

→ (CO-CREATE) CREATE OPPORTUNITY

Mary + Lisa

(check support needs + level of availability)


FACILITATE CHOICE

PARISH GROUP

→ SPEAK TO JOHN ABOUT PARISH FOR MEETING

SIMLOW - INVITE TO LOOK AT MATERIALS

SUP - ASK TO VISIT



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CYCLE OF ENGAGEMENT

Where do you recognise these stages of engagement?
Where could they help?



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Discernment

A synodal Church in proclaiming the Gospel, 'journeys together' – How is this journeying together happening and what steps might the Holy Spirit be inviting us to take?



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Discernment

Return to the main themes: What's our experience now? What's moved on?

Discern where the Spirit is inviting you to begin. (Gradual steps towards fulfillment.)



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Discernment Meetings

- Open parish synodal meetings
- A series of small meetings
- A discernment group

What is the Spirit prompting us towards?

- Parish wide discernment
- Particular discernment – individuals and groups



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Discernment Tools

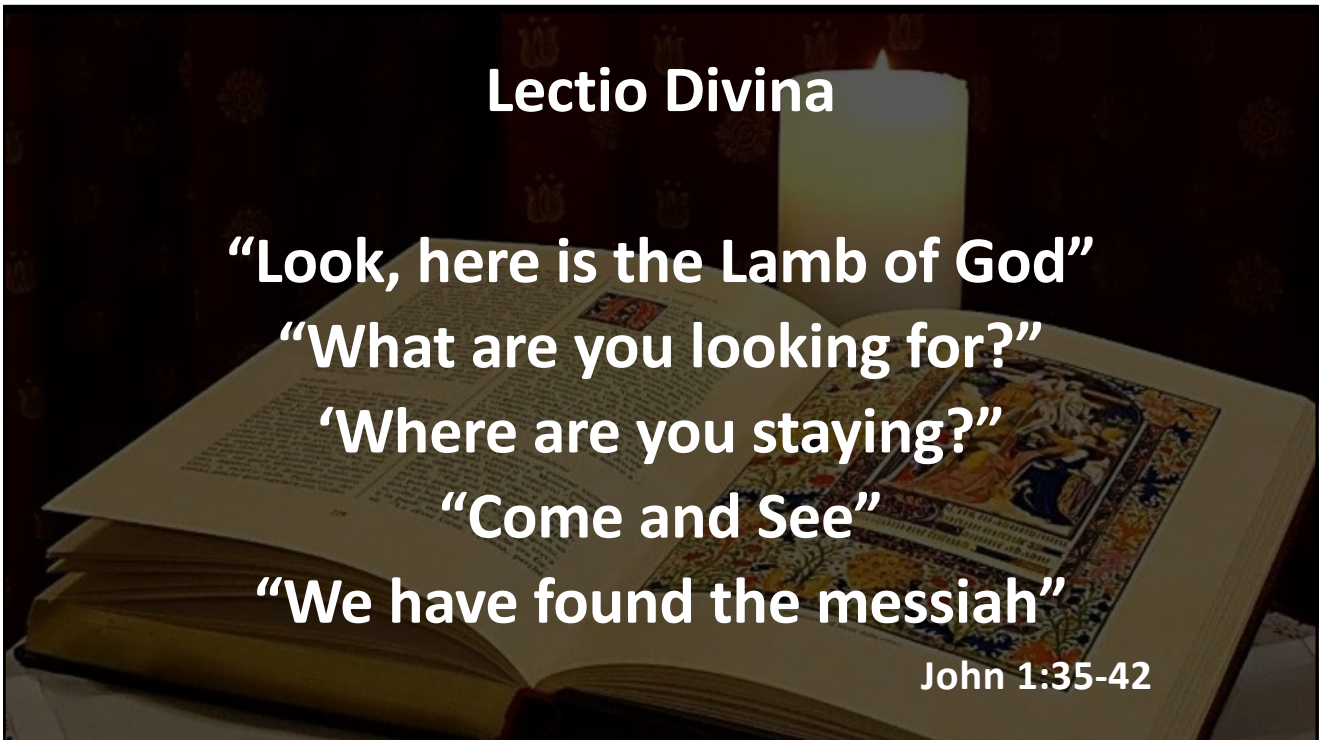
SEE – JUDGE – ACT – REVIEW

Recognise-Interpret-Choose-Gather Fruits

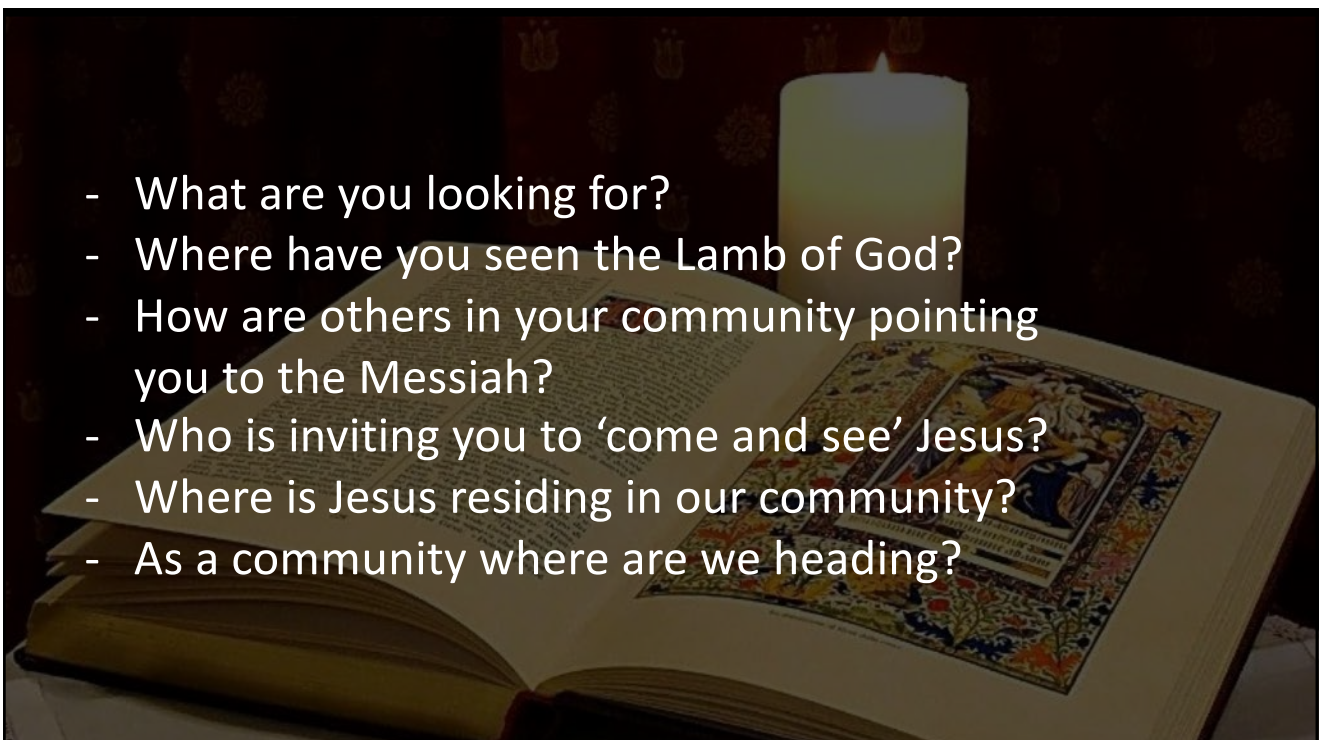
Lectio Divina



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Discernment Tools

SEE – JUDGE – ACT – REVIEW

Lectio Divina

Spiritual conversation:
Three rounds of listening



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Spiritual conversation



2 minutes: Share our experience & Listen

Share your experience – clockwise.
Share for two minutes

Share what we have heard from others

What have you heard from others in the group / **What has moved you?**

Deepen our sharing & listening

Deepening the listening
Discerning the fruit

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Synodal meetings

NB - Not a business meeting

Suggested format (General meeting or themed):

1. PRAYER
2. PREPARE: Reflect on the 5 Principles– How is this meeting different? How will we be today?
3. SYNODAL LISTENING
 - See, Judge, Act - Lectio Divina – Spiritual conversation
4. How is this developed? Maintain commitment to a synodal approach

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Quick recap of possible steps

- Return to synod themes. Where do you begin?
- Synodal gatherings: parish wide – or specific areas
- Synodal Listening – communal discernment, leading to decision and action
- Maintain a commitment to synodal way of being

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In your parish

- What steps do you envisage in discerning your parish way forward?

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Your next steps

Considering the steps you've identified

- How can you begin to develop an engagement plan for this?
 - 6 (Action/Goal)
 - 3 (Create Opportunities – consider motivations & archetypes)
 - 1 (Raise Awareness)
 - 2 (Stimulate Interest)

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Useful tools

- Beginning your Synodal meetings (from the Accompaniment Project – or Diocese)
www.millionminutes.org/accompaniment
- www.togetherforthecommongood.co.uk
- Intergenerational Tool
www.millionminutes.org/generations