

# Sharing our Hopes and Fears



2<sup>nd</sup> LISTENING GATHERING SYNODAL PATHWAY

# MOMENT OF WELCOME

- A warm welcome to everyone
- We are all in the same boat – learning this together
- Simple format for the evening
- Listening to understand
- The theme for this evening is: Sharing our Hopes  
and Fears



# MOMENT OF REFLECTION

Why are we here?

- To continue our listening and sharing
- To listen more deeply
- To journey with each other
- To respect the contribution of each one
- To learn from each other
- To be open to the Holy Spirit



# MOMENT OF INVITATION

Once again you are warmly invited to:

- Speak from the heart
- To listen deeply to one another
- To share your experience
- To understand one another
- To listen to God's Spirit



# MOMENT OF PRAYER



We begin our evening in prayer:

Using the ancient 'Adsumus Sancte Spiritus' – “We Stand Before You, Holy Spirit” - a prayer used for centuries at Church gatherings

A prayer that calls upon the Holy Spirit, inviting the Spirit into our conversations, opening us up to the way the Spirit works:

Let us stand to pray together slowly and deliberately:

# Synod Prayer

We stand before you, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us make Yourself at home in our hearts;  
Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.  
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence  
our actions.



Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life,  
and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time,  
In the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever.

Amen

Let us now listen to this piece of Scripture from the letter to the Romans (15:13)



“May the God of **hope**  
fill you with all joy and peace in  
believing,  
so that you may grow rich in  
**hope**,  
by the power of the Holy  
Spirit”

# 1<sup>st</sup> QUESTION FOR THIS EVENING

When you think about your experience of Church, what brings hope?

You are invited to reflect quietly about this before you respond

Music will play as we sit quietly





# IN SMALL GROUPS



Your small group leader will invite you to share on the question for a total of .....minutes altogether.

## When you think about your experience of Church, what brings hope?

Allow each person time to share

Listen to understand each other

When everyone has shared take time to write down, on a Post-It note, what you shared

Groups are invited to display the Post-It notes around the walls of the meeting space

# TEA BREAK



An invitation to get a cuppa before we move on to our second question



You can walk around and view what people have written in the POST-IT notes



Music will play to call us back to our groups and settle into the quiet once more

# BACK TO SMALL GROUPS— A SCRIPTURE REFLECTION



From the Gospel of John:

“Now when evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, got into a boat, and started to cross the lake to Capernaum.

It had already become dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. By now a strong wind was blowing and the sea was getting rough.

Then, when they had rowed about three or four miles, they caught sight of Jesus walking on the lake, approaching the boat, and they were frightened.

But he said to them, “It is I. Do not be afraid.”

John 6:16-20

## 2<sup>nd</sup> QUESTION FOR THIS EVENING

**When you think about your experience of Church  
what makes you anxious or fearful?**

You are invited to reflect quietly about this before you respond

Music will play as we sit quietly



# IN SMALL GROUPS

Your small group leader will invite you to share on the question for a total of ..... minutes.

**When you think about your experience of Church, what makes you anxious or fearful?**

Allow each person time to share

Listen to understand each other

When everyone has shared take time to write down, on a Post-It note, what you shared

Groups are invited to display the Post-It notes around the walls of the meeting space



# MOMENT OF THANKS

As we end this second listening experience I invite you to listen carefully to these words from Vatican II document

“Gaudium et Spes – The Church in the Modern World”



“The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of  
the people of our time,  
especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted,  
these are the joys and hopes,  
the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ”.

# Thank you

For taking part

For listening well

For sharing openly

For taking the risk of opening your heart

Let's pray the "Our Father" the prayer that unites us



Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.

Thy Kingdom come,  
thy will done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us  
and lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.

Finally, I invite you to share a sign or gesture of PEACE.....

Thank you!