

Salford Diocese Synodal Report (summary excerpts)

Personal faith and prayer:

Respondents placed prayer at the heart of their lives of faith although several expressed their need for more help in deepening their lives of prayer and giving this the priority needed.

Young People:

Insight into urgency of the need to work with young people to help them develop in spirituality and in faith and in taking their proper place in the life of our parishes. There is a genuine sadness and deep concern at the absence of youth and young people walking with us on our Synodal journey.

Women:

This was a particularly popular theme, one of the dominating themes (along with Youth). Every respondent, female and male, felt strongly that the Church is not hearing adequately the voices of women.

Listening / communication / collaboration:

Majority of respondents felt that, although they were cared about and cared for, they were not listened to. This lack of listening, it was suggested, is found on all levels of church life, parish, diocese and the universal Church centered on Rome.

Hierarchy / Clergy:

This was also a popular topic. Many expressed their sadness at an 'inaction' in implementing the Second Vatican Council. Many believed that laypeople should have more say and more authority in the running of their parishes and should have more say at a diocesan level. * See also Note 1

Marginalisation:

The most common groups that people felt were marginalized were: women, youth, LGBTQ+ people, migrants, divorced people. Their voices need to be heard. Many felt that this is a large contributing factor in the Church's decline in attendance

Liturgy and Worship:

Prayer and Mass are great sources of nourishment, wisdom, courage and formation. Responses were once again varied. Many felt that the Latin Mass has been unjustly excised and people who wish to attend it are being marginalized. Many also felt that Mass should be made simpler and more accessible to all, some suggested in the vein of more evangelical churches. This was a common perception.

What is the Holy Spirit asking us to do?

Some were converted to the process, others were concerned about changes to and/or watering down of church teaching

Working with other faiths:

This was a common theme – the vast majority of people agreed that it was good to reach out to other faiths. Some qualified this by saying that Catholic teaching shouldn't be watered down. There was a sense of regret that Catholic enthusiasm for ecumenical activity (not always very prominent) had dipped in recent years and that this was a lost opportunity

Faith in action:

Catholic Social Teaching was discussed a lot as a method of connecting faith with community work, showing the best of the Catholic Church at a grassroots level. Some saw it as being secondary to the more spiritual business of the Church. However, other responses sought to make the link between faith and action often at parish level:

Finally:

The grace of this has been not just in hearing the voices of those who have been involved but also becoming aware of those from whom we have yet to hear which gives us the impetus to continue this synodal path.
