

Facilitating a conversation with Young People in the Parish



Use the following to plan a Synod conversation with Young people in your Parish:

- Gather a group of interested leaders from the Parish who can communicate with young people. (Catechists, Youth leaders, Teachers, Parish Clergy)
- Bring the leadership team together to plan your event. (Venue, date, time, catering, who's doing what etc)
- If you are a rural parish, consider holding a few smaller 'house' meetings that could cover a wider area.
- Decide on an age range to focus on. (suggested 14+)
- Send invitations out to Young People via the Parish Newsletter, through Schools and contacts.
- It is vital that you take time to get to know the young people by listening & accompanying them - don't turn it into purely a catechetical session.
- The process must work for your parish; you may already have groups formed that you can use for this gathering or link to an event.
- Be aware of Diocesan Safeguarding guidelines and ask for advice.
- Consider how the young people can feedback to the wider parish community, and also feed into the leadership of the Parish. (Present their reflections at Sunday Masses)
- Use this event to plan as a parish how you are going to mark and celebrate the Synod in October 2018. (resources available from cliftondiocese.com)

Suggested timings/structure:

- Refreshments. (Make sure everyone feels at ease before a formal welcome)
- Welcome and introductions. (ensure everyone is introduced)
- Explain briefly about the Synod taking place in Rome.
- Use the turn over questions provided by Southwark Catholic Youth Service (available on our Synod pages)
- If you have a large group, split them into smaller groups, each with a leader.
- Give everyone a copy of the letter from Pope Francis to young people (available on our Synod pages)
Read the letter out and welcome any comments.
- Take notes on what is shared in the group: What do you and your friends want from the Church? How can the Church and our Parish better involve you? How can we continue to celebrate the Year of Mission, and in Advent, the Year of Prayer.
(Use a Future Full of Hope & Year of Mission guidelines for additional input)
- Ask for feedback: Did you find the meeting useful: What did you learn? How can we feedback to our Parish? Do you want to meet again?
- End the session by affirming the young people and thanking them for coming along and sharing.
- Finish with a prayer.

