



# Synod on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment

October 2018, Vatican

Resource for Parish Discussion

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**A FUTURE  
FULL OF HOPE** and the  
Synod

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This resource is designed for Parish Pastoral Councils and other parish groups to engage with the Synod on Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment that takes place in October 2018. An overview of the Synod's preliminary findings can be found on the Youth Ministry pages of [www.cliftondiocese.com](http://www.cliftondiocese.com)

Copies of A Future Full of Hope, Year of Mission resource and The Final document of the Pre-Synodal meeting should be on hand to ensure that any conversations take place in this framework. These documents can all be found on [www.cliftondiocese.com](http://www.cliftondiocese.com)

## Prayer of the Pope Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment



Lord Jesus in journeying towards the Synod, your Church turns her attention to all the young people of the world.

We pray that they might boldly take charge of their lives, aim for the most beautiful and profound things of life and always keep their hearts unencumbered.

Accompanied by wise and generous guides, help them respond to the call you make to each of them, to realize a proper plan of life and achieve happiness. Keep their hearts open to dreaming great dreams and make them concerned for the good of others.

Like the Beloved Disciple, may they stand at the foot of the Cross, to receive your Mother as a gift from you. May they be witnesses to your Resurrection and be aware that you are at their side as they joyously proclaim you as Lord. Amen.

## Questions and conversations for Parishes

### Preliminary questions:

How are we currently engaging with young people?

In what ways is the parish engaging with the Diocesan Year of Mission?



The questions below have been formed from the Final document of the Pre-Synodal meeting of Young People Rome, 19th - 24th March 2018.

## 1. The challenges and opportunities of young people in the world today.

*'Young people look for a sense of self by seeking communities that are supportive, uplifting, authentic and accessible: communities that empower them.'*

- How do we foster in young people a sense of belonging to our parish?
- In what ways could we challenge young people to live a Christian life and see its benefits?
- How do we recognise and support young people who suffer from mental illness?
- Do we give young people the opportunity to explore, to challenge and find comfort in the Church's teachings and the message of the Gospel?

## 2. Faith and Vocation

*'Discerning one's vocation can be a challenge, especially in the light of misconceptions about the term. However, young people will rise to the challenge. Discerning one's vocation can be an adventure along the journey of life. That being said, many young people do not know how to intentionally go about the process of discernment; this is an opportunity for the Church to accompany them.'*

- How can we support young people to foster their own personal relationship with Jesus?
- In what ways can we ensure that the joy of our faith and parish community, which young people are so attracted to, is our witness to them?
- How do we foster vocations to the Priesthood and Religious life, and a greater understanding of lay vocation and the universal call to holiness?
- Who are the people in our parish who have the skills to accompany young people through their journey of faith both through catechetical programmes and through witness?

### 3. Formation and pastoral activity

*'Beyond institutional decision making, we want to be a joyful, enthusiastic and missionary presence within the Church.'*

- Are we a welcoming parish, especially to young people?
  - How might we improve in this area?
- Are we living authentically, giving a positive example to young people?
- Do we involve young people in the decision-making processes and offer them leadership roles?
  - In what areas could young people make an impact on the parish?

#### Feedback:

Your conversations and thoughts will contribute to a wider conversation in the diocese around how best we minister to young people.

Please send in your feedback from these questions by email to:  
[youth@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:youth@cliftondiocese.com)

Alternatively, you can send your responses by post to:

Clifton Diocese Youth Ministry  
Alexander House.  
160 Pennywell Road.  
Bristol. BS5 0TX.

If you would like the Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator to meet with your Parish, please get in touch.

Thank you.