

Dear Father and Parish Coordinator

(31/10/2022 Letter from Dioc David Cross to the Parish)

Bishop Terry has asked that I circulate to you the Working Document that has been produced from the syntheses that were sent to the General Secretariat of the Synod following the local consultation in the first stage of the Synodal process.

You are probably already aware that the Holy Father has announced that the General Assembly of Bishops will take place in two sessions: 1) from 2 to 29 October 2023 and 2) in October 2024. This is fully explained in the FAQ document which also contains a useful summary of the main working document.

I think the key purpose of this exercise is a sort of “check back” with people, that they have been listened to and what has been said by them has been reflected in the documentation.

There are three documents attached to this email:

- “Enlarge the space of your tent” (is 54:2) This is the working Document for the Continental Stage (DCS) and is 44 pages in length.
- Brief FAQ (mentioned above with summary)
- Synodal Process diagrammatic so that you can see where the journey began and where we are up to at the present time

Bishop Terry invites clergy, parish synod coordinators and members of their parish groups to take a prayerful look at the document in the light of the questions posed at paragraph #106 on page 42 (see below).

#106. The DCS is thus the privileged instrument through which the dialogue of the local Churches among themselves and with the universal Church can take place during the Continental Stage. To pursue this process of listening, dialogue and discernment, the reflection will focus on three questions: –

- “After having read and prayed with the DCS, which intuitions resonate most strongly with the lived experiences and realities of the Church in your continent?”
- Which experiences are new, or illuminating to you?” – “After having read and prayed with the DCS, what substantial tensions or divergences emerge as particularly important in your continent’s perspective?”
- Consequently, what are the questions or issues that should be addressed and considered in the next steps of the process?” – “Looking at what emerges from the previous two questions, what are the priorities, recurring themes and calls to action that can be shared with other local Churches around the world and discussed during the First Session of the Synodal Assembly in October 2023?”

I would very much appreciate it if you could return any results from your prayerful discussion of the documents to me at [adultformation@rcdmidd.org.uk](mailto:adultformation@rcdmidd.org.uk) by Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2022.

Apologies for the tight timescale for this but it seems to be the way of things relating to the Synod. If I can be of any help, please do get in touch.

Best wishes

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