



# An Invitation

Saggart  
Rathcoole  
Brittas and

You are warmly invited to a Synodal gathering in March, in the parish of Newcastle. The word "synodal" means journeying together and these gatherings will be an opportunity to share and listen to each other's experience of Church, in an organised, gentle and prayerful environment.

## Why are you being invited?

Pope Francis has asked all of us to take part in sharing and listening to each other and to the Spirit. In this way we are beginning to lay foundations for our future together.

The invitation is to all the baptised. Eventually, all the responses will be collected in time for the 2023 Synod in Rome.

## What will happen at the gatherings?

The group should meet in a quiet space. The group leader will present four questions. Each member will be asked to share their thoughts while the others listen. There is no need to debate, the most important thing is to listen.

Each small group will have a leader who will help everyone to have the opportunity to share and will collect the feedback from the group.

## Questions

### Past

*When you think of your experience of Church, what brings joy?  
When you think of your experience of Church, what brings sorrow?*

### Future

*When you think of your experience of Church, what brings hope?  
When you think of your experience of Church, what brings fear or anxiety?*

***Please remember we are being asked to listen with understanding, to respect each other's experiences, and to try to walk in the other person's shoes.***

## What will happen to the feedback?

The Animators, will sort the feedback into similar themes. This will form the basis for a Report to the Diocese. The feedback will be used by the Parish Team and Parish Pastoral Council to help in pastoral planning.

## When and where will these gatherings happen?

Before St. Patrick's weekend

At home around the table

With family or friends or neighbours

Up to 6 people

If you would like to participate please email **[parishsynod22@gmail.com](mailto:parishsynod22@gmail.com)** with your name and contact details.

Alternatively contact our local animators - Agnes Grogan, Bridget Breen, Matt O'Sullivan and Ronan McDermott or leave your name with the parish office. We will help you to get your group organised.