



DIOCESE OF PAISLEY

The Right Reverend John Keenan
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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Synod 2023: A Church of Communion, Participation and Mission.

With this letter I appeal to you to be involved in our current efforts to work towards a Synodal Church of Communion, Participation and Mission. In doing so, I am passing on an invitation from Pope Francis himself to all the members of the Church.

Pope Francis has asked all the baptised to share our experiences – positive and negative – of how the Church has carried on our life up until now and how we might work from now on, especially in reaching out to those who feel forgotten and excluded.

We are currently in the listening phase, which started in all dioceses across the world in October 2021.

Our diocese introduced the process to our Diocesan Pastoral Council in November, and all parishes have since been asked to participate in whatever ways they think best suited to them. This will mean discussion in parish councils and our other organisations. Whether you belong to a group or not, however, your views are valued and sought.

The Synod Consultation Document can be found on the homepage of our diocesan website and it offers some questions for guidance which may help you in forming your response.

Our answers will feed into a national process and so we invite your responses by Friday 8 April 2022 so that we can make a synthesis of your answers and publicise it across our diocese before it is forwarded to the Bishops' Conference to form part of the Scottish response. A national response will then, in its turn, be forwarded to the European level and then to the Holy See for the universal gathering in 2023.

Please send your questions or responses to Synod23@rcdop.org.uk

Thank you for your cooperation in this encouraging endeavour and God bless your participation in this important effort towards a synodal people, walking together as clergy, religious and laity, and so living and sharing our common baptismal vocation and mission in our local and universal Church in this new millennium.

With the assurance of my prayers and blessings,

+John



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