

Listening Gatherings in the Archdiocese

The purpose of the Diocesan Phase of Synod 2023 is to gather the responses of as many people as possible to the Fundamental Question. These responses will eventually end up as the basis for the discussion and discernment of the Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome in October 2023.

Fundamental Question

A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, "journeys together": How is this "journeying together" happening today in your particular Church? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our "journeying together"?

In the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan, we are inviting people to bring their reflections on this question to a listening gathering organized by the local parish. At the gathering, we will listen and discern the Holy Spirit in the experiences we share. Our hope is to renew ourselves and our particular Church as People of God, listening, dialoguing and then discerning the Holy Spirit in our journeying together.

Take some time before a Listening Gathering to prayerfully reflect on the Fundamental Question. You may want to watch the video Introduction or read the Introduction to Synods to provide some context for your reflections. Keep in mind that "your particular Church" is the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan (or another diocese where you have spent significant time in your life.)

Talk to your priest, watch your parish bulletin, find scheduling information on the website and Facebook for listening gatherings in your parish. Listening gatherings begin in January 2022 and go up to Easter Sunday 2022 (April 17).

The Diocesan Team for the Synod, in consultation with parish priests and volunteers, has developed a Listening Gathering program that for use in all parishes. It is designed:

- To last no more than two hours
- To accommodate up to 24 people, in small groups of six people or fewer
- To help small groups focus intently on listening to one another as experiences of "journeying together" are shared
- To collect the shared experiences and send them to the Diocesan Team where they will form the basis for a diocesan synthesis (see The Synod Process)
- To be held in any appropriate venue in the communities of the Archdiocese
- To encourage the discernment of the Holy Spirit in the shared experiences
- To promote among the faithful of the Archdiocese an understanding of and interest in living more fully as People of God who are listening, discerning, and dialoguing as they journey together



Archdiocese of
Grouard-McLennan

