

For the Agra Archdiocesan Phase of Synodal Process

FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH: Communion, Participation, Mission

Steps for Parishes & Deaneries

1. Each parish priest constitutes a **“Parish Synod Core Team”** who can animate – Consisting of 3-5 members, besides the P.P and APP. Ideally, one Religious and two lay faithful (a male and female).
2. Send these names to the diocesan curia office latest by **Friday, 26th Nov. 2021.**
3. Each dean constitutes a **“Deanery Synod Core Team”** – Consisting of six members, besides the dean. Ideally, two priests, two Religious and two lay faithful.
4. Send these names to the diocesan curia office latest by **Monday, 29th Nov. 2021.**
5. Training of the **“Archdiocesan Synod Core Team”** – **28th Nov. 2021, 11 a.m to 1 p.m.** in the Cathedral House, Agra.
6. Training of the ‘Agra Deanery-Parish Synod Core Team’ – **5th Dec. 12 noon to 2 p.m.** at Pastoral Centre, Agra.
7. Training of the ‘Mathura Deanery-Parish Synod Core Team’ – **5th Dec. 11 noon to 1 p.m.** Place to be decided and informed by the Dean.
8. Training of the ‘Aligarh Deanery-Parish Synod Core Team’ – **12th Dec. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Place to be decided and informed by the Dean.
9. Training of the ‘NOIDA Deanery-Parish Synod Core Team’. ***Date, time & place to be decided and informed by the Dean.***
10. Parish Priests to conduct Parish Synod (consultation and discussion) in each parish with as many diverse groups as possible. Groups like: The Elderly, *Mahila Sangh*, *Purush Sangh*, Widows/Widower, Migrant Laborers, Catechists, Other denominations, Youth, Social Workers, Health Workers (Dr.s & Nurses), Vincent de Paul, Formees, School Students, Altar servers etc.,
11. The Parish Synod Core Team must write down the minutes of each such discussion and after having done with all the groups, collect all the minutes and formulate a parish report of the same (Max. length 8pgs.) in ENGLISH.
12. The report of the parish consultation and discussion (IN ENGLISH) must be submitted to the respective ‘Deanery Synod Core Team’ on **30th Jan. 2022** by the ‘Parish Synod Core Team’. This day could be observed as ‘The deanery synod day’. *The date could be discussed here.*
13. The dean along with the ‘deanery synod core team’, after collecting the parish reports, must formulate a deanery report of the same (Max. length = 10 pgs) in ENGLISH and submit it to the Archdiocesan Synod Core Team by **7th Feb. 2022.**
14. An Archdiocesan Synod Day to be observed, in which all the parish core team members, deanery core team members, priests, representatives from formees, other denominations, etc., could participate (*Date, yet to be decided*).

An Important Note: *Remember always that the purpose of the Synod is not to produce documents, but “to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to flourish, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships, awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another and create a bright resourcefulness that will enlighten minds, warm hearts and give strength to our hands.”*

‘How’ of the Consultation and Discussion in the Parish?

- a) The parish priest, along with the parish synod core team, animates the consultation process of each group in the parish.
- b) An atmosphere of prayer – Scripture Reading, hymn to the H Spirit, shared prayer / prayer for the synod.
- c) An Introduction / key note by the Parish Priest or another member from the core team.
- d) Presentation of the theme and questionnaire to the participants. For every group, we need to modify the questions for sharing. For e.g. for children, adapt more activity oriented discussion.
- e) Listening and sharing and documenting the discussions. Insist on participation of every member in the sharing process and continue to live the synodality in our families and in the Church. This is the most important step, therefore allot a considerable amount of time for this discussion. Do not engage in taking written answers of the questionnaire, conduct discussion and consultation.
- f) Taking down the minutes of the consultation is another important aspect.
- g) Wrap up and gather the common points to prepare a report of each group’s discussion and consultation.
- h) Thanksgiving prayer, lunch and departure.

Some suggested points to consider

- i. It is an attempt to seek the opinion of every person of the ‘people of God’. Ensure the participation of the greatest number possible.
- ii. Must personally reach out to the peripheries, to those who have left the Church, to those who never practice their faith, etc. Focus on the poor, marginalized and vulnerable.
- iii. The Pastors should not be afraid to listen to the Flock entrusted to them.
- iv. Keep the process simple, accessible and welcoming for all.
- v. Key words: Communion, Participation and Mission. Listening, Learning and Loving. Discernment and Dialogue.
- vi. This decision to “journey together” is a prophetic sign for the human family, pursuing the good of all. To do this we need to let ourselves be educated by the Spirit.
- vii. The hope is that the experience of the Synodal Process will bring about a new springtime for listening, discernment, dialogue and decision-making, so that the whole People of God can better journey together with one another and the entire human family, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Nota bene: Please send us the photographs of the Parish Synod Consultation and the Deanery Synod Consultation so that we can upload them in our diocesan website.

For further reference, detailed literature on the Synod is available in the Archdiocesan website under the title, **SYNOD 2021-’23**. Please log on to our website www.agraarchdiocese.com and download the materials as per your need.

The Archdiocesan Contact Persons: Rev.Fr. Santhosh D’sa and Rev. Sr. Leena D Matera

The Archdiocesan Core Team: Rev. Frs. Bhaskar J, Jacob P, Mr. Antony A.P, Ms. Pancy T, Mr. Olvin S, Mr. Chinnadurai, Mrs. Ruveena C, Mr. Kuriachan, Ms. Caren W, and Mr. Abhishek J.