

PATHWAYS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION PHASE OF THE SYNOD 2025 – 2028.

The full document, can be downloaded from www.catholicleamington.org.uk/synod and outlines the implementation phase of the Synod of Bishops. This text is a 2-page summary of the 24-page text.

Implementation Phase of the Synod - the final phase of the Synod

This Phase aims to examine new practices and structures to enhance the synodal life of the Church.

- The goal is to make the Church more synodal and effective in its mission of evangelization.
- Emphasis is placed on practical application and sharing experiences across local Churches.
- The phase is not a repetition of past experiences but a new step towards growth in synodality.

Participation in the Implementation Phase

This Phase involves the entire People of God, emphasizing broad participation and co-responsibility.

- All members of the Church, including laypeople, and clergy are invited to participate.
- Special attention is given to marginalized groups and those previously excluded from the synodal process.
- Churches are encouraged to listen to diverse contexts beyond the parish, including schools and hospitals.
- The aim is to foster relationships and an exchange of gifts among components of the Christian community.



Responsibilities of Bishops in the Synod

Diocesan or eparchial Bishops hold primary responsibility for this phase in their local Churches.

- Bishops are tasked with initiating, guiding, and concluding the implementation process. They are called to exercise authority in a synodal manner, promoting unity and recognizing diverse gifts within the community.
- Collaboration with Priests, Deacons, and participatory bodies is essential for effective implementation.
- Bishops should encourage participation from all members of their diocesan community, including those with resistance to the process.

Role of Synodal Teams and Participatory Bodies

Synodal teams are crucial for animating the synodal life of local Churches during the implementation phase.

- These teams should be diverse, including laypeople, clergy, and representatives from various ministries.
- Their role is to promote synodal dynamism, identify tools for formation, and facilitate necessary initiatives.
- Synodal teams will also gather and report on the fruits of the implementation process.

Groupings of Churches and Their Functions

Groupings of Churches play a vital role in supporting local Churches during the implementation phase.

- They facilitate coordination, networking, and resource sharing among diocesan synodal teams.
- Groupings are encouraged to promote theological reflection and formation initiatives at a broader level.
- They help collect contributions from local Churches and maintain communication with the General Secretariat.
- The aim is to enhance the experience of ecclesial identity and foster collaboration among Churches.

General Secretariat of the Synod's Role

The General Secretariat is responsible for animation and coordination during the implementation phase.

- It fosters communion and the exchange of gifts among Churches, listening to experiences and promoting reflection.
- The Secretariat will facilitate ongoing dialogue and communication, particularly at the continental level.
- It is tasked with accompanying Bishops and synodal teams, prioritizing support for Churches with fewer resources.
- The Jubilee of Synodal Teams and Participatory Bodies is a key event for fostering unity and sharing experiences.

Encouraging a Synodal Church Approach

The text emphasizes the importance of a synodal approach for Churches.

- Encouragement for Churches to adopt a synodal approach.
- Importance of both content and methods in decision-making processes.
- Communities that have engaged in listening and discernment have experienced the beauty of synodality.
- The Secretariat will continue to support and coordinate Study Groups on relevant topics.
- New Study Groups will focus on liturgy and the role of Episcopal Conferences.

Evaluation and Future Assemblies

The text outlines the significance of evaluation and upcoming Ecclesial Assemblies as opportunities for growth and reflection.

- Continental evaluation Assemblies scheduled for the first four months of 2028 with an Ecclesial Assembly in October.
- Evaluation is framed as a process of reflection rather than judgment.
- Assemblies will celebrate progress and identify areas for improvement.
- They will explore ways to balance synodality, collegiality, and primacy.

Engaging with the FD During the Implementation Phase

The FD serves as a reference for the phase, necessitating its understanding among synodal teams.

- The FD is a comprehensive document that requires deep engagement, not just surface-level understanding.
- It calls for a journey of conversion for local and universal Churches.
- Emphasis on communal and personal prayer centred on Christ.
- The FD outlines a shared understanding of synodality rooted in the Second Vatican Council.

Preserving the Overall Vision of the FD

The text highlights key points that provide coherence and direction for implementing the FD's recommendations.

- The ecclesiological perspective is rooted in the Second Vatican Council.
- The mission of proclaiming the Kingdom of God is central to the FD.
- The relational perspective and ecumenical impulse are essential for understanding the FD.
- The FD emphasizes the Church's dialogue with the world and commitment to social justice.

Addressing Polarities and Tensions

The implementation of the FD involves navigating various polarities and tensions within the Church.

- Key polarities include the whole Church vs. local Church and participation vs. authority.
- The FD encourages local experimentation in decision-making and ministry.
- The text emphasizes the need for discernment in balancing these tensions.

Investing in Concrete Practices for Change

The implementation phase aims to discern steps for cultural and structural reform within the Church.

- Concrete changes are necessary for the vision of a synodal Church to be credible.
- Local Churches are encouraged to identify specific areas for change.
- Areas of focus include promoting synodal spirituality and developing forms of ministry.

Methodology for Implementation Phase

The text discusses the importance of a suitable methodology for the synodal process.

- The synodal method is a spiritual experience that fosters a new way of being Church.
- Ecclesial discernment is crucial for decision-making processes.
- Clear objectives and a prayerful context are essential for effective discernment.



Designing and Accompanying Synodal Processes

The text outlines the need for careful design and accompaniment of synodal processes.

- Processes should focus on ecclesial discernment and governance. Tailored training courses are needed.
- Experiences of listening and dialogue should be fostered in communities.

Future Synodal Events and Initiatives

paulhayden444@gmail.com

The text concludes with a look ahead to future synodal events and initiatives.

- The Jubilee of Synodal Teams and Participatory Bodies is planned for October 2025.
- The synodal process aims to create opportunities for dialogue and shared responsibility.
- The journey ahead is seen as a chance to celebrate hope and commitment to the Church's mission.