

## **1 Preparing for the Synod**

As you know, I have been chosen by the Scottish Bishops to be our Conference's representative for October's Synod of Bishops in Rome. I am aware that this particular Synod is a special and unique moment in the history of the Church. In some ways I am excited but also apprehensive. However, my overriding desire is to discern more fully the Holy Spirit's guidance. I want to be well prepared for the Synod and part of that is listening to the Synodal Committee as well as the wider Church (and beyond) throughout our country. I am therefore inviting our eight dioceses to share with me your reflections from the Instrumentum laboris.

## **2. Diocesan Consultation**

The Working Document consists of four modules. If you are already familiar with the text you will know that each section, including the worksheets, is comprehensive. Indeed, in Rome each participant – over a month - will only be discussing Section A and one theme from Section B. Therefore, to make your discussions simpler I suggest that each diocese reflects on only one module. I hope that this should also facilitate deeper reflection. I have allocated each diocese (in alphabetical order) with one theme. However, if you wish to study and share more than one module you can obviously do so, but please do the allocated one first.

Aberdeen and Glasgow – Section A: A Synodal Church #17-42

Argyll & the Isles and Motherwell – Section B: A Communion that radiates

Dunkeld and Paisley – Section B: Co-responsibility in Mission

**Galloway and St Andrews & Edinburgh – Section B: Participation, governance and authority**

Each diocese should decide how it wishes to consult. Submissions should be no more than 1,000 words and emailed to me by 18th August 2023 at [bishop@rcdai.org.uk](mailto:bishop@rcdai.org.uk)

This process will also be open to all groups and individuals.

I have attached the Instrumentum laboris:

<https://www.synod.va/en/synodal-process/the-universal-phase/documents.html>

With best wishes,  
Right Reverend Brian McGee  
Bishop of Argyll and the Isles