



Pope Francis has issued a worldwide invitation to all the faithful to give voice to their experience in their local Church. This will be the first phase of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, whose theme is *“For a Synodal Church: communion, participation and mission”*. The process started in October 2021 and will culminate in October 2023.

**Our English-speaking Community** is contributing to this process through the framework established by the Archdiocese of Luxembourg. The first step is a general consultation (online and on paper). **We hope many of you will take part and offer here some guidance on how to do so.**

We urge you to opt for the online consultation, as this makes results analysis much easier; however, a paper version will also be made available. You will be informed via the Community website ([www.catholic.lu/synod-2021-2023](http://www.catholic.lu/synod-2021-2023)) when the online consultation is activated; the paper version will be made available in St Alphonse Church as of the weekend of February 12/13.

**Answering the questions:** We recommend you take your time before filling in the form. Sit around a table (virtual or otherwise) for a discussion with family, friends, acquaintances, including those who may be on the fringes of our Church, or have left it. Once you are ready, please fill in the form as completely as you can (however, no questions are compulsory). Bear in mind that the best answers (and easiest to collate faithfully afterwards) will be clear and concise, which is why there is a limit set to the length of answers.

We very much want to hear from you about your experience of the Church; however, to ensure that the consultation remains anonymous, we ask you to please not include personally identifiable information in your answers.

Once completed, you can send in the paper version to the Parish Office, either directly or via the greeters team at the weekend Masses. For both the online and paper versions, we ask that you send in your contribution **by March 2<sup>nd</sup> (Ash Wednesday)**.

Throughout March, we hope to hold a number of other events (small discussion groups, a community workshop) prior to preparing our contribution for inclusion in the Archdiocese's overall report to the Synod Office in Rome.

**Heartfelt thanks for your participation!**



Here is some background material to help us on our way in this synodal process.

**Synod resources (selection):**

**Synod prayer** Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus (*attributed to Saint Isidore of Seville (c. 560 - 4 April 636)*

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.  
With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;  
Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.  
We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.  
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.  
Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life  
and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.  
All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

**Synod prayer (Pope Francis):** Come, Holy Spirit! You inspire new tongues and place words of life on our lips: keep us from becoming a “museum Church”, beautiful but mute, with much past and little future. Come among us, so that in this synodal experience we will not lose our enthusiasm, dilute the power of prophecy, or descend into useless and unproductive discussions. Come, Spirit of love, open our hearts to hear your voice! Come, Holy Spirit of holiness, renew the holy and faithful People of God! Come, Creator Spirit, renew the face of the earth! Amen.

**Synod documents:**

Preparatory document : [https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/common/preparatory-document/pdf-desktop/en\\_prepadesktop.pdf](https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/common/preparatory-document/pdf-desktop/en_prepadesktop.pdf)

Vademecum: <https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/document/common/vademecum/Vademecum-EN-A4.pdf>

Luxembourg Archdiocese Synodal Team website: <https://www.cathol.lu/sai-glawe-liewen-vivre-sa-foi/synode-2021-2023/>