

# Participant Resource

This sheet can be given out in advance of Synod meetings to allow for reflection, or at the meetings. You will also need a Synod prayer card.

## What is the Synod?

Pope Francis has invited the global church to a conversation about our future, and to share stories of our reality right now. We are called to dream dreams together, and he wants everyone's voice to count. The conversations we are having now are also going on all round the world, and all the findings will be discussed in a diocesan meeting next year, followed by a written response that we will publish and that will form part of the national submission. You can find out more on our website: <https://northamptondiocese.org/for-a-synodal-church/>.

## Scripture for Reflection:

### The Healing of Blind Bartimaeus

*They came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again."*

*Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.*

1. Think about the way many in the crowd speak to Bartimaeus. When have you been spoken to like this? When might you have spoken in this way?
2. Think about the way Jesus listens to Bartimaeus and asks him to speak out. What does it feel like to be listened to in this way? How can we listen to others as Jesus did?

“ the purpose of the Synod is to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, and allow hope to flourish

## Questions for reflection

**Communion:** conversations lead to a new experience of Church

Q.1 What does it mean to you to be Catholic?

**Participation:** the people of God talk and listen graciously to one another about questions that matter

Q.2 What are some of your experiences of the Church doing something well?

Q.3 What are some of your experiences of when things have not gone so well?

**Mission:** Our thoughts are turned to those outside the church walls

Q.4 What are our dreams for the Church?

## Feeding Back

Your input forms part of the Synod conversation that is going on all over the world. You can feed back as part of your parish process, or you can also submit your responses separately through the portal ([https:// northamptondiocese.org/for-a-synodal-church/](https://northamptondiocese.org/for-a-synodal-church/)).

