



Session 2 – Participation

Participant's Pack

Before the session

- If you have time, skim through the content of this pack. In particular, try to look at the questions that you will discuss in the session. Use the time before the session to reflect on them. You might like to make notes in the space provided, but this is not required.
- Remind yourself of the topics discussed in session 1.
- Check that you have the information needed to join the Zoom meeting.

To start your session

- Join the Zoom meeting, using the information emailed to you. It is the same as for session 1.
- You will be admitted from the waiting room as soon as your group leader is ready.
- Check that your name is displayed as you would like to be called.
- Initially you will be muted, so please unmute yourself before you speak.

Outline of session

The aim is for sessions to last about 1½ hours, but 2 hours may be more realistic, especially as this session includes four discussion topics.

- Welcome and introduction
- Opening liturgy
- Brief reminder of approach and protocols for discussions
- Discussion 4: Celebrating
- Discussion 5: Co-responsibility in the Mission
- Discussion 6: Dialogue in Church and Society
- Discussion 7: Other Christian Denominations
- Final prayer

Opening liturgy

Opening prayer

**Lord, the Word who is Life,
may all the people of our Diocese
grow in openness to the power of the Holy Spirit,
so that through a growth in understanding and courage,
and truly open to your call,
we may bear powerful witness to all around us,
for you are Lord for ever and ever. Amen.**

Scripture reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reminder of approach and protocols for discussions

Our sessions use the 'encounter-listen-discern' model. The purpose of the discussions is to listen to each other's experiences and reflections, with the aim of hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit.

The following protocols are designed to help us use this model effectively:

- There are no right or wrong answers.
- Don't feel you need to answer all the questions – focus on those that are most meaningful to you.
- Be yourself - talk from the heart about your personal experiences.
- Encourage each other (even if you don't always agree).
- Don't be afraid of silence.
- Respect each other.
- Keep discussions confidential within the group.
- Everyone's voice needs to be heard.
- Listen actively – allow yourself to be challenged, surprised, or even shocked.

Discussion 4 - Celebrating

The first discussion today is about the quality of our prayer life, including Mass and other liturgies. There is also a focus on what flows from our prayer life. The questions are:

- Do our celebrations in Church inspire a deeper encounter with the risen Lord?
- How does my prayer – both individually and in my community – enable my participation in the mission of the Church?
- Is the Eucharist the centre of mine, and my community's life?
- What flows from the Sunday (or daily) Eucharist, from our communities into the world?
- What do I give thanks to God for in prayer? What do I seek from him?

Space for your personal thoughts and reflections

Discussion 5 - Co-responsibility in the Mission

The next discussion focuses on our obligation through baptism to active participation in the mission of the Church. How does the Parish and Diocese support us in this task? The questions are:

- Do I understand the mission of the Church – in my own life, in the local church, and the universal church?
- How do our lives relate to the Great Commission of Jesus? This is found at the end of St Matthew's Gospel: Jesus said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'
- What formation do I need to be more committed to the mission of the Church?
- What impact is our local community making in the area – do we make a difference?

Space for your personal thoughts and reflections

Discussion 6 - Dialogue in Church and Society

The next discussion invites us to think about how the Church interacts with the wider world. The questions are:

- How do we understand dialogue (respectful conversation) between Church and the wider society?
- Do we see dialogue as a unique contribution that the Church can make to the world?
- How do we address the challenges that dialogue brings about?
- How do we begin to dialogue with others?

Space for your personal thoughts and reflections

Discussion 7 - Other Christian Denominations

The last set of questions are about how well we engage with other Christian denominations:

- What is our relationship with other Christian communities?
- Do we listen to each other as we journey on our pilgrim way?
- What enriches us from other traditions? What do we offer them from ours?

Space for your personal thoughts and reflections