



## FAQs: Synod 2021-2023

### External Consultation Questions

**1. Why are we doing this?**

Archbishop Dunn is committed to reaching outside our walls during our current synodal process. If we want to reach and serve new people, we first need to know where they're coming from. We also want to begin building a relationship with people who are not presently in our pews and let them know we care about them and their opinions! Our internal engagement for this synod has shown us that even many engaged Catholics do not feel heard in their faith communities. We want to do whatever we can to assure people that their voices will be heard and respected.

**2. Didn't we do this a few years ago?**

In 2014, for the Year of Faith, our diocese ran an online survey called Beyond the Pews that was specifically for non-practising Catholics. This survey is based on some of what we learned from those responses and will hopefully provide us with more information and clarity.

**3. What will be done with the survey responses?**

We'll be doing a few things with the responses. Firstly, a summary will be included in the report that we send to Rome for the ongoing synodal process. But closer to home, these responses will form part of the basis for our future outreaches of evangelization in our diocese. We want to invite people into our Church and share the saving love of God with them, but how we invite them may depend on what we hear from them.

**4. Do you really think anyone will actually fill this out?**

We hope so! We're relying on personal invitation because we know that an online survey with no prize or payment is not necessarily the most compelling prospect. But if our core parishioners personally invite people in their lives, we believe we will have a much better response. Share this initiative with people who matter to you, and let them know that this process matters to you! We want to counter the perception that we don't listen or care what people think. We don't know exactly what will come of this, but we want to begin by asking the questions, looking at the responses, and then working these needs and concerns into our pastoral planning.

**5. Who should I invite?**

We want to hear especially from people who do not actively participate in our faith community. This may include fallen away Catholics who no longer participate in Mass, those who have never been involved in our Church, and people who feel excluded from our gatherings for whatever reason.

**6. How long does the survey take?**

Most of the questions are open-ended, and the completion time will really vary based on how much respondents write and whether they answer all questions. But we estimate most people will take about 15-20 minutes to complete the survey.

**7. Is the survey anonymous?**

The survey can be answered entirely anonymously. We do ask at the end if the participant would be interested in joining a focus group to discuss things further, and if they indicate an interest we ask for their contact information. But there is no need to give any identifying information.

**8. When do you need responses?**

The survey is open now. It will remain open until February 28, 2022.

**9. How can I invite people?**

The survey is online, and is accessible at <https://halifaxyarmouth.org/survey>. You can invite people via email, in person, on social media. If you're sending someone an email or message to participate, you may wish to say something like this:

Would you be willing to share your opinions?

My Church is running an initiative right now to connect with people who aren't involved to find out how we can be more welcoming and supportive in the community.

We have an online survey to listen to people who don't go to Church and hear where they stand. It is short, anonymous (unless you wish to leave your contact information, but you don't have to), and there are no wrong answers. It should take about 15-20 minutes.

You can access the survey here: <https://halifaxyarmouth.org/survey>

Thanks for your help!