

We are all in the one boat!
The Synodal Pathway launch in Dublin: a diocesan story

The launch of the diocesan phase of the Synodal Pathway in the Archdiocese of Dublin took place in the Pro-Cathedral in an interactive scriptural Prayer Service, entitled 'we are all in the one boat'.

Taking the image of the boat as mentioned in the official preparatory documents the liturgical space within the Cathedral was shaped in the form of a boat. The bow of the boat faced towards the Cathedral door emphasising mission and outreach to the peripheries.

The 'nets' of the boat were cast wide with invitations to all 199 parishes and a variety of groups and associations to send representatives. There was an enthusiastic response with wide range of women, men, families and clergy taking part from each of the five pastoral areas of the Archdiocese.

The Archbishop gave two pastoral teachings reflecting the theological, scriptural and pastoral principles informing synodality. Again and again it was emphasised that the synodal boat was not the boat of any particular group, but the boat of ALL the baptised. At the conclusion of the liturgy, the Archbishop together with three young people raised the 'synodal boat' sail indicating that the Synodal Journey had begun.

The leadership of the five pastoral areas were presented with a replica of the synodal boat entrusting the Synodal Pathway to their pastoral care.

Resources were made available on the diocesan website, including a digital flip book entitled *Simply Synod* accompanied by a series of six 3-minute catechetical videos.