

Synodal Reflections from three Anglicans

What is your experience of the Catholic Church?

- Two of the three participants were 'Anglo-Catholics' and as a result are quite familiar with the Catholic Church and its teaching. The third person was a former Catholic from Belfast who became an Anglican priest. Therefore, he too, was very familiar with the Catholic Church.
- All were very familiar with the Catholic liturgy, which is, in many ways how they also celebrate. For example, Latin is used extensively.
- The Pope is viewed by the Anglo-Catholics as the Patriarch of the Western Church.
- It was thought that the Catholic Church was more tolerant than previously.

Where do your views about the Catholic Church come from?

- A shared vision of fellow Christians with no animosity.
- A life-long adherence to Anglo-Catholicism.
- One participant thought that the Church was seen as 'condemners' and deplored the sexual abuse scandals.

In what ways could the Church reach out more to the wider community, especially those who are marginalised in society, the poor, the ostracised and people of other faiths?

- It was felt that we should all journey together as a means of Christian unity and combat the advance of secularism.
- Joining together for worship in the Cathedral was seen as hugely beneficial. The monthly ecumenical Rosary and Canon Michael's Mass were cited as two examples.
- One participant thought that the institution of the Ordinariate was a 'hiccup'.
- The hospitality of Catholics was noticeable. This was particularly appreciated during the pandemic when Anglican churches were closed, and yet the Catholic churches remained open. When all churches were closed, the daily Mass streaming via zoom from the altar, in a church, was also commended.