



**Right Reverend Patrick Joseph McKinney
Bishop of Nottingham**

Pastoral Letter for the children of the Diocese

To be read in all Catholic Primary schools on or around 2nd November 2021

The Opening of the Synodal Process in the Diocese of Nottingham

Dear children of the Diocese of Nottingham

I hope you have enjoyed your half-term break and had a good rest. I am hoping today that you might be able to help me with an important task.

Every day you are probably very used to adults asking you to listen – sometimes you probably grow very tired of it! Listening to one another is of course so important when we are learning from our teachers or from our parents or when we are spending time with our friends and family.

Today, I really want to listen to you! I want to hear all about what you think and what you feel about being part of God's family. As His children you are loved and cherished by Him, so it is very important that we listen to you.

I'd love to know, most of all, what your dream is for God's Church. How would you like it to look? What do you like about God's Church? What would make it better? Who would you like to invite to church?

You can share this dream in a poem or a picture or a story if you like. I would love to see whatever it is you'd like to create. I am hoping your teachers will be able to share some of your dreams on display boards or social media, using the hashtags #listeningchurch or #synod.

Thank you for helping me with this important task. Never forget that God the Father always wants to hear about his children's plans and dreams. Don't be afraid to tell Him all about them. He loves you and will always help you to live your dreams.

+ Patrick

Bishop of Nottingham

For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission