

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a large, round, rustic loaf of bread. The bread has a thick, golden-brown crust with a prominent crack down the center. The person is wearing a dark blue shirt and a blue and white patterned cloth is tucked under the bread. The background is dark and out of focus.

# **A SINGLE BREAD – A SINGLE HUMANITY**

Joint Parish Instruction 2021-2025

# Preface

The Church of Sweden in Malmö is all of us together. A diversity of members, elected representatives, volunteers, and employees. The Parish instruction is meant to be a support and inspiration and to show the direction for our common task expressing the church in Malmö. I hope it will help us to prioritize, to see possibilities, and to feel confident that we carry the work together.

The Parish instruction is a fundamental document, that describes the Church of Sweden in Malmö, and what the parishes will focus their work on the coming four years. It has been produced by the Parish Councils and the vicar in close cooperation with the Diocese Office and was issued by the Chapter of the Diocese of Lund 10 November 2021. The Parish instruction links the Malmö parishes to the Diocese of Lund, and through the bishop to the Church around the world. The Church of Sweden in Malmö is always part of a whole that is larger than ourselves.

The Parish instruction is based on a description of our environment and shows possibilities and challenges in the places where our church engages with society. Furthermore, it describes our vision and our mission, and how our fundamental task; worship, teaching, diakonia and mission, is interpreted throughout our parishes. A defining part of the instruction focuses on priorities for the future.

We are constantly practicing to see each other as one humanity and that we all share one bread. Welcome to join us!

Gunilla Hallonsten, vicar







# Vision and mission

The Church of Sweden in Malmö's vision is: A single bread – a single humanity. The following mandate is articulated from this vision: the Church of Sweden in Malmö works for reconciled diversity.

The Church of Sweden in Malmö, as part of the worldwide church, wants:

- to spread the gospel, glad tidings, and the call to a life in imitation of Jesus.
- to convey the grace of God in the gift of baptism and the Holy Communion for liberation and restoration.
- to be a permissive and loving community for all, without discriminating against people.
- to work for peace and reconciliation, respect and participation.
- to live and work in solidarity with people who live in vulnerable circumstances, listen to children and always have children's best interests in mind.

The call from baptism and the Holy Communion, to shape life as a gift in the world, is central. Christ gives himself as a gift and fills reality with life and meaning. Christ calls people to discipleship and to hand ourselves over to others in the service of the atonement. This means trying to be liberating in every context. With courage, trust and joy, the task of passing the bread on is carried out. The Church of Sweden in Malmö wants to experience this call to listen to cries for liberation, to extend bread and life opportunities further, to try to identify need and serve each other in Malmö as God's co-creator. A central aspect of the

mission is to live close to the secret of the sacraments – that we all share "one bread and one humanity".

The Church of Sweden in Malmö is part of Christ's Church in the world – a church that is constantly being reformed. As part of the diocese of Lund, the Church of Sweden is rooted in grace and creates opportunities in the world. From a variety of traditions, the Church, through the Holy Spirit, is a unifying force – facing the future to be light and salt throughout the city.

As an evangelical Lutheran church, based on the Word and grace, the church lives in the calling to dare to defy fears and go beyond the ordinary. The Church wants to carry the hope that a new and different reality is possible. The Church of Sweden in Malmö wants to be in constant dialogue with the present and with various stakeholders/organisations in Malmö.

God created the world – one earth and one humanity.

God reconciles the world – in Jesus Christ, one bread.

# The world of the parish

Malmö equals diversity. Anything goes in this city. As part of the Öresund region, the city extends beyond its own borders. With a large international airport on the other side of the Öresund Bridge and with one of Scandinavia's largest ports in "Copenhagen Malmö Port", Malmö is located in a hub that faces the whole world.

Malmö has a growing university with about 25,000 students, a flourishing cultural life and a business life that is developing. 60 new headquarters have been established since the bridge was inaugurated. Exciting architectural solutions and innovative forms of housing are being created and new modern districts are emerging. One of the city's largest workplaces is Skåne University Hospital with over 6,000 employees. Highly specialised healthcare, research and educational activities are conducted there. The hospital reflects Malmö's diversity and dynamism.

Malmö is growing fast. The city today has about 350,000 inhabitants, and within about

20 years Malmö is expected to have a population of half a million. Areas experiencing particular growth are Nyhamnen, Hyllie / Vintrie / Holma, Elinegård / Limhamn's seaside town, Tygelsjö / Bunkeflo, Östervärn, Fosie and Västra Skrävlinge. The city is becoming denser rather than growing outwards. 75,000 people commute to Malmö every day and 30,000 commute out. Malmö is described as one of the foremost growth regions in northern Europe. There are plans to expand the city tunnel to connection with the Copenhagen metro.

The Öresund Bridge, the University's focus on diversity, cultural life, architecture,

car-free pedestrian streets, communication development, harbour and beach promenades are just a few examples of the images that describe positive development and sustainability initiatives that want to take Malmö into a new era.

But there is also exclusion and segregation in Malmö. There is a serious problem with organised crime and a large supply of illegal weapons. Police and social services work to combat gangs and shootings. Open unemployment is higher than the national average.

Malmö is a city full of civic activism and commitment. The city is proud and many individuals are working to



change the media image of a city paralysed by violence, segregation and child poverty.

According to Save the Children, Malmö has the highest rate of child poverty in the country, affecting a third of all children. Rosengård is the most vulnerable area in the country.

People from 180 nationalities live in the city and over 150 different languages are spoken. 32% of the population were born in another country (including children of immigrant parents = 43%). In addition, Malmö is a young city. 50% of Malmö residents are 35 years or younger (21% are under 18 years old).

Many young people live life at a fast pace with high standards that create anxiety. Others struggle with profound meaninglessness, which

also creates anxiety. Mental illness is high among Malmö's young people.

In Malmö, the whole world is present, which also means that the world's different conflicts become apparent between different groups. There are elements of both Islamophobia and anti-Semitism.

At the same time, faith and religious affiliation are not downgraded to a special personal interest, but are issues that concern most people. Those in power and schools can no longer turn a blind eye to religious life and practice. The presence and diversity of religion makes Malmö a city among others in the world where religious affiliation is obvious and important.

It is often said that development predicted for

Sweden first appear in Malmö; this applies to both innovations and the labour market, development in the diverse society in general, and the loss of membership from the Church of Sweden. 35% of Malmö residents (123,000 people) are currently members of the Church of Sweden and it is thought this will figure will go down to 15-20% within a ten-year period.

The Church of Sweden in Malmö is constantly working with external environment monitoring and updates descriptions and analysis accordingly - both in general and locally.

---

## SOURCES

Population statistics, demographic development and business statistics are taken from [malmo.se](http://malmo.se), 2020 and [oresundsinstitutet.org](http://oresundsinstitutet.org), 2021  
Statistics regarding the university: [mau.se](http://mau.se), 2021  
Save the Children: [raddabarnen.se](http://raddabarnen.se), 2020, 2018.





# Challenges and opportunities

**M**almö is a fast-growing city well on its way to half a million inhabitants. The municipality has seen good results when measuring global accessibility, sustainability, environment, technology, innovation, business climate, economic strength, cost situation and infrastructure. But the measurements plummet when it comes to health, safety and security.

50% of Malmö's population consists of children, young

people and young adults. Many young people tend to move to Malmö for education and work, which contributes to creativity, cultural expression and a quest for sustainability. At the same time, vulnerability is widespread. It is both an opportunity and a challenge to meet, guide and contribute with interpretive frameworks in the world of young people.

Malmö is a relatively small city in terms of area for the number of inhabitants.

Everything is close. There are no suburbs. A cycle path can be the narrow dividing line between hopelessness and faith in the future. Contributing to reducing segregation and increasing cohesion is crucial. With several particularly vulnerable areas, the social and diaconal pressure is severe. Child poverty and gang formation spreads in parallel with generosity, curiosity and cocksure creativity.

There are a deep need for spiritual and existential



interpretive frameworks that are fundamental to a person's health, security, sense of security and being able to feel and show trust. There are great opportunities in this, but also challenges for the church to meet, deepen and let people grow in their faith, self-understanding and spirituality. Traditions and customs change rapidly, this is especially clear with baptismal and funeral customs.

The whole world is present in Malmö. Constant colla-

boration between different stakeholders is the key to building better worlds and situations for the inhabitants. Multi-disciplinary meetings are a key to the integration work and multi-disciplinary gatherings in the spirit of diversity are a major challenge today.

Church life around the communion tables is growing at the same time as members of the Church of Sweden is declining drastically in percentage terms. It is a

challenge and a mission to try to reverse the trend of membership resignations and to too few baptisms.

The possibilities for the future rely on collaboration. The work and commitment of parishioners and non-profit agencies is crucial to meet the increasing needs of the future with less financial resources. As a minority church in a big city, it is important to see yourself as one stakeholder amongst many others.



# Priority development areas

For 2022–2025 the Church of Sweden in Malmö has articulated specific goals for the work with children and young people, sustainability, ideality, culture, pastoral services, learning relationship and cooperation with civil society.

## **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

- The Church of Sweden in Malmö prioritises children and young people as bearers of the church's mission
- Confirmands and school collaboration from preschool to university.
- Special initiatives for the age groups 0–5, 6–14, 15–19 and 20–35 years

## **SUSTAINABILITY**

- Strategic decisions must be preceded by a sustainability analysis.
- The sustainability perspective (spiritual, social, economic, ecological) permeates work, life and faith.

## **IDEALITY AND VOLUNTARY WORK**

- The parish members lead activities to a greater extent.
- Intergenerational work where the children occupy a special position.

## **CULTURE**

- The Church of Sweden in Malmö should be a creative church
- The cultural heritage must be protected in terms of church music, liturgy and art
- Cultural cooperation throughout the parish, also in particularly vulnerable areas
- Cultural initiatives for Malmö residents in general and for children and young people in particular

## **PASTORAL SERVICES**

- Church activities must increase in quality and quantity
- Developed pastoral theological approach
- Increased joy and pride in conducting these services
- Increased time and energy for pre- and post-work, as well as the inclusion of voluntary work

## **LEARNING RELATIONSHIP**

- The Church of Sweden in Malmö takes a learning approach to meeting people
- The Church of Sweden in Malmö is a meeting place that is characterised by diversity and openness
- Reorientation after covid
- Encourage employees to learn as part of the mission
- Develop the teaching aspects of the mission

## **COOPERATION**

- Diakonal collaboration is developed both internally and externally to counteract vulnerability, and is characterised by a rights-based approach
- Collaboration with civil society organisations and the public sector to promote integration
- Ecumenical and inter-religious cooperation to contribute to peace and social cohesion



The four dimensions of the fundamental task must be constantly connected and be related to each other.

# The fundamental task

**M**ission is a basic attitude, rooted in the belief that God is active and that every human being has a meaning/task. The Church is part of God's mission to the world. Through baptism, God calls people to be disciples – to take care of creation, the environment and one's neighbours, and to tell in words and deeds about Jesus Christ. Through the Holy Spirit, the Church is active worldwide and crosses borders. In the diversity of Malmö, people from all over the world meet and the mission to love their neighbour, to achieve liberation in every meeting, is part of the fundamental and sustainability-focused task.



**W**orship is the centre of church life. The Lutheran tradition emphasises the preaching of the Word and the use of the sacraments as special occasions when we can live in the trust of God's presence. Worship provides a special stronghold for faith that is independent of our own achievements, a place to dwell in and be fulfilled by God's grace, mystery and holiness. It is a human need to express faith in action, prayer and praise. In the interaction between receiving and giving, faith grows and deepens. Forms of worship need to be constantly challenged, especially in our digital age. In pastoral services, it is especially important that liturgy, preaching and music are in harmony with people's world of life so that the context becomes an aid to interpreting life in the light of the Christian faith.

Throughout the history of the Church, faith has been passed on to new generations and in new places. With the Bible as a basis and the Church's interpretations as a framework, the Church's task is to guide, provide language for and deepen faith that is ultimately a gift from God. The teaching is linked in a special way to baptism, as a preparation or follow-up. Knowledge is never a requirement for belonging to God, but it can deepen the ability to see God's actions and opportunities in his own life, the lives of others and the world. The Church of Sweden in Malmö wants to be and work with a learning approach.



Diakonia means service, and is the parish's entire mission to live in care and love for thy neighbour in imitation of Christ. Diakonia is first and foremost an expression of the life of the Church, and not an individual activity. Diakonia is a reminder that body and soul belong together. Diakonia is expressed in the Church's social work and means, based on a rights-based approach, to meet people equally. Diakonia includes identifying and acting when people end up in vulnerable situations, and in that work helping people find their own resources - for dignity and restoration. Diakonia is the parish's entire approach to society. The parish has a mission to shine a light on malpractice, be a prophetic voice and be involved in the development of society.

# Sharing responsibility

The Church of Sweden in Malmö is a whole with many parts, where the parts and the whole are in a mutual and close relationship with each other. "A single bread - a single humanity" will permeate the Church of Sweden in Malmö.

Through Christ's promises in the Word and the sacraments, the Church is created. Therefore, the parish, where the word is preached, people are baptised and communion is celebrated, is also the centre of the Church of Sweden in Malmö.

The Church of Sweden in Malmö has a Parish Council and a management that ensures that parish life can be developed and that the church can be relevant to the people of Malmö. Based on their contexts, history, traditions and conditions, the various parishes must be part of a rich diversity that together inspires each other and develops the whole. The responsibility for the fundamental task lies with each parish in the group of parishes. There is the task of interpre-

ting, concretising and shaping the entire fundamental task based on the local conditions.

This Parish Instruction forms the basis of each parish's 4-year plan. These action plans will in turn result in annual business plans where the funds needed for the activities are requested.

"Pastoral care in collaboration" includes university churches, seamen's chaplains, police chaplains and special youth diaconal initiatives as well as institutional pastoral care: hospital churches and prison churches. These collaboration assignments occur all over Malmö and require special skills. With cohesion, joint in-depth study and management, these pastoral care tasks can be strengthened for the future where joint efforts and network building are central.

The Church of Sweden in Malmö as a whole is responsible for coordinating the confirmation work in terms of the distribution of resources and premises. The parts of

the whole work together to ensure that as few obstacles as possible exist for confirmation, while at the same time the guidelines for confirmation work must be maintained in each parish.

The Church of Sweden in Malmö is investigating the structures and distribution of resources for the parishes' future challenges. This means seeking greater flexibility and a broader geographical field of work for employees. The staff is at least threefold - employees, volunteers and elected representatives. Resource distribution is generally reviewed at the same time as a long-term local supply plan is drawn up.

Priority development areas described in this document must be implemented based on the holistic idea, therefore it may look different in the different parts of Malmö just to be able to be true to these priorities. Within the development areas, strategy groups are established that work towards goals.





# Consequences for children

## Three children's perspectives

Children are the church's present and its' future. Therefore questions that concern children need to be addressed and visualized here and now. The X states that "children and young people as bearers of the church's mission" is a prioritized development area for the next four years. To achieve this priority's desired effect the three childrens' perspectives should be considered in all decisions that affect children.

## The child's interpretation

Children must be given the opportunity to make their voices heard. As part of the work with child impact assessment of the Parish instruction, children from different parishes in Malmö have shared their thoughts based on four issues:

- What is important in the church?
- What is important to you in the meetings?
- How do you influence what happens?
- What can the church mean in the future?

The questions also aim to show a direction for the work in the parish.

## The adults' interpretation

The child perspective is represented by the adult's perception of what is best for the child. This perspective is characterized by the adult's experience of children. But the adult's perspective can never replace the child's own voice, the child's perspective. To get information about what children think is important and meaningful, we need to listen to the child.

## The child rights perspective

On the first of January 2020, the Convention on the Rights of the Child became Swedish law. The child rights perspective therefore needs to be considered in any decision that directly or indirectly concerns children.

## Analysis

Children have a special position and need special attention in the Church of Sweden's activities. The Church of Sweden Malmö has developed seven development areas, one of which is Children and young people. In addition to this, children are mentioned only in two of the other development areas, in Culture and in Ideality and participatory work. The fact that Children and young people are their own area of development can be seen as a direct consequence of KO's formulation of the child's special position and as a response to the need to prioritize this group as part of the church's present and future. None of the other priority areas is aimed at a specific age group in the same way. The result is that children and young people, in a clear way, are highlighted, which contributes to raising the status of the work aimed at children and young people and for the employees who work close to this group.

One risk with separating the group Children and young people in their own development area is that it can be perceived that children and young people are not included in other development areas.

## The future

The Church of Sweden in Malmö needs to continue its work of developing clear tools for conducting child impact assessments in the parishes. The work of increasing children's participation in all areas of the Church needs to be constantly followed up and evaluated.

Like all baptized people, children and young people are carriers of the Church's mission. It is hopeful that this is so clearly emphasized in the Parish instruction. Conversations to follow up what this means in practice are important in all the parishes in The Church of Sweden in Malmö.



# Parishes and churches

The Church of Sweden in Malmö consists of six parishes that cooperate under the name Malmö pastorat. Based on the X the six parishes form their activities according to their own identity and with the local church as community centre.

## **Fosie parish**

Fosie parish includes Fosie kyrka, Glostorps kyrka, Heliga trefaldighetskyrkan, Lockarps kyrka, Oxie kyrka and Västra Skrävlinge kyrka.

## **Husie parish**

Husie parish includes Husie kyrka and församlingshem, Kirsebergskyrkan and Södra Sallerups kyrka.

## **Hyllie parish**

Hyllie parish includes Hyllie kyrka and S:t Mikael's kyrka.

## **S:t Johannes parish**

S:t Johannes parish includes S:t Johannes kyrka, S:t Matteus kyrka, S:t Pauli kyrka and S:ta Maria kyrka.

## **Limhamns parish**

Limhamns parish includes Bunkeflo kyrka, Bunkeflo Strandkyrka, Limhamns kyrka, Tygelsjö kyrka and Västra Klagstorps kyrka.

## **S:t Petri parish**

S:t Petri parish includes S:t Andreas kyrka, S:t Petri kyrka and S:t Nicolai kapell.

### **Welcome to church!**

Contact information, directions and opening hours can be found at [svenskakyrkan.se/malmo](http://svenskakyrkan.se/malmo)

