



The following resources are enclosed to support parishes in developing understanding in relation to the forthcoming Synod and to enter into a time of prayer.

- Bulletin Notices for the weekends of 9-10<sup>th</sup> Oct and 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> Oct
- Adsumus Sancte Spiritus Prayer
- Prayer of the Faithful for Weekend Liturgy 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> October
- Prayer of the Faithful based on the 10 thematic nuclei of the Preparatory Document for the Synod. These prayers can be used in a liturgy or for Parish Pastoral Council or Pastoral Community meetings.

More resources are available at: [www.synod.va](http://www.synod.va)



## 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Oct

### SYNOD: AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE

This weekend Pope Francis opens the pathway for a Universal Synod that will take place in Rome in 2023. This Synod will be a gathering that takes place after all the local Churches have shared their contribution on the experience of journeying together in Communion, Participation and Mission.

In our Diocese, of Down and Connor, we will have a time of listening and sharing prayerfully through Advent. During this time there will be an opportunity for you to share your experience of what it is like to be a part of our Church today.

Bishop Treanor will launch our Diocesan Phase of this Universal Synod on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 5:30pm at the Vigil Mass in St Peter's Cathedral. [www.churchservices.tv/stpeterscathedral](http://www.churchservices.tv/stpeterscathedral)

## 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> Oct

### SYNOD: AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE

Last week Pope Francis opened a new pathway of listening to the People of God that will culminate in a Synod in Rome in 2023. This is an important time as we pray and think together on Communion, Participation and Mission in the Church.

Bishop Treanor invites us all to enter into a time of prayer so that we too in our Diocese may be attentive to our experience of Church and how the Holy Spirit is prompting and guiding us as we journey on our pathway into the future.

We ask you to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide the Church at this time and we look forward to opening a forum of listening in Advent.



## *Adsumus Sancte Spiritus*

This prayer can be widely used throughout the diocesan phase of the Synodal Process. It can likewise be incorporated into the liturgical celebration to open the Synod in local Churches on October 17. Attributed to St. Isidore of Seville (560-636), it has been traditionally used at Councils and Synods for hundreds of years. The version below was specifically designed for the Church's Synodal journey from 2021 to 2023.

*We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.*

*With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.*

*We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.*

*Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.*

*Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.*

*All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.*



## Prayer of the Faithful

1. For God's holy Church:

That it may be a light to the nations and the universal sacrament of salvation, walking with all peoples to the Kingdom of God.

2. For Francis our Pope, Noël our Bishop, and the holy, faithful People of God in our Diocese of Down and Connor that the celebration of this Synod may help us to discern God's will and to boldly carry it out.

3. For all civil and public authorities:

that they may always seek the common good, acting with justice and integrity.

4. For the sick, the lonely, the oppressed, and the suffering:

That they may never be discarded, but rather treasured and cared for as the face of Christ in a suffering world.

5. For ourselves, gathered here:

That this Synodal Process may lead us ever deeper into the communion of the Church, foster our participation in it, and equip us to go out on mission.

### **Priest's prayer**

O God, our refuge and our strength, hear the prayers of your Church, for you yourself are the source of all devotion, and grant, we pray, that what we ask in faith we may truly obtain. Through Christ our Lord



## **Prayer of the Faithful**

(based on the 10 thematic nuclei of the Preparatory Document for Synod 2021-2023)

For the Church. That we may journey as companions, side by side one another on the same road.  
We pray to the Lord.  
R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

For listening ears. That our hearts and minds be open to listening to others without prejudice.  
We pray to the Lord.  
R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the gift of speaking out. That we be encouraged in this Synod journey to speak with courage and *parrhesia*, integrating freedom, truth, and love.  
We pray to the Lord.  
R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

For a Church that celebrates. That our journey together in the coming months will be based on listening together to the Word of God and the celebration on the Eucharist in the communion of the People of God.  
We pray to the Lord.  
R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

For our participation in the Mission of Christ. That through our Synodal journey together, we may grow in our shared responsibility of the mission that is entrusted to us.  
We pray to the Lord.  
R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

For true dialogue in the Church and in Society. That through a path of perseverance, patience, and mutual understanding, we may be attentive to the experience of persons and peoples.  
We pray to the Lord.  
R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the unity of Christians. That dialogue between Christians of different denominations, united by one Baptism, may radiate with new brightness on this Synodal journey.  
We pray to the Lord.  
R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the exercise of authority and participation in the People of God. That the Synodal roots of the Church will bear fruit in new ways of being at the service of one another at all levels of the Body of Christ.  
We pray to the Lord.  
R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

For our discernment to be led by the Holy Spirit. That all decisions made on this Synodal path may be discerned through a consensus that flows from our common obedience to the Holy Spirit.  
We pray to the Lord.  
R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

For a spirituality of journeying together. That we may be formed as disciples of Christ, as families, as communities, and as human beings, through our experience of this Synodal journey.  
We pray to the Lord.  
R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

