



For a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission.

Pope Francis is inviting the entire Church to reflect on its life and mission: “It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium.” This journey, which follows in the wake of the Church’s “renewal” proposed by the Second Vatican Council, is both a gift and a task: by journeying together and reflecting together on the journey that has been made, the Church will be able to learn through Her experience which processes can help Her to live communion, to achieve participation, to open Herself to mission. Our “journeying together” is, in fact, what most effectively enacts and manifests the nature of the Church as the pilgrim and missionary People of God.

“...the purpose of this Synod is not to produce more documents. Rather, it is intended to inspire people to dream about the Church we are called to be, to make people’s hopes flourish, to stimulate trust, to bind up wounds, to weave new and deeper relationships, to learn from one another, to build bridges, to enlighten minds, warm hearts, and restore strength to our hands for our common mission” (Synod Preparatory Document)

On October 17th the world will celebrate the opening of the Synod: “For a Synodal Church: communion, participation, and mission”. Each parish across the world, including in our diocese, will join in prayer for the Synod this weekend.

This Synod will have a 3-phase consultation: diocesan, continental and universal. Pope Francis is asking all Catholic dioceses around the world to start consulting with parishioners and others from October 17 to hear the voices of the People of God.

The fundamental question of the Synod is:

A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, “journeys together.” How is this “journeying together” happening today in your local Church? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our “journeying together”?

Parish Leadership Teams, Parish Pastoral Councils, and Catholic community groups are being asked to allocate time to participate in this consultation and make a submission and to lead synod conversations in their communities. Resources about how to facilitate these synodal groups will be coming out next week.

Please get in touch with our Diocesan Synod Contact is Stephanie Swann if you have any questions: stephanies@cdd.org.nz / 027 655 6691.

Information will also be available on our Diocesan website: <https://www.cdd.org.nz/synod>

PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD

ADSUMUS SANCTE SPIRITUS

Every session of the Second Vatican Council began with the prayer Adsumus Sancte Spiritus, the first word of the original Latin, meaning, "We stand before You, Holy Spirit," which has been historically used at Councils, Synods and other Church gatherings for hundreds of years, and is attributed to Saint Isidore of Seville (c. 560 - 4 April 636). As we embrace this Synodal Process, this prayer invites the Holy Spirit to be at work in us so that we may be a community and a people of grace.

**E te Wairua Tapu, ka tū mātou ki tōu
aroaro, i a mātou e hui kotahi i
runga i tōu ingoa.**

**Ko koe anake hei arahi i a mātou,
Noho mai koe ki ō mātou ngākau;
Whakaakona mātou ki te huarahi e
tika ai te haere, ā, me pehea e taea e
mātou te whai atu.**

**He ngoikore mātou, he hunga hara anō
hoki; Kua mātou e kawea
i te mate koretake.**

**Kaua e tukua te kuware e arahi i a
mātou ki te huarahi o te hē
Kaua anō hoki te mariu e
whakaaweawe ki a mātou mahi.**

**Kia kite mātou i ta mātou
kōtahitanga i roto i ā koe
kia haere ngātahi ai mātou ki
te oranga tonutanga
ā, kaua hoki mātou e kotiti kē i te
ara o te pono me te ara tika.**

**Ka inoi mātou ki ā koe,
nāu e ora nei i ngā wāhi katoa
me ngā wā katoa,
i te kōtahitanga o te Matua
me te Tamaiti mō āke āke.**

Āmene.

**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.

