

For A Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission

Some of you have asked what Synodality is all about and why Pope Francis has called for a Synod with the above title. For eight years now, Francis has been calling for a more decentralized Church, a Church marked by collaboration and consultative decision making. He believes that this is the model of the Church that the Lord expects of us in this millenium.

If we are to learn from Pope Francis in the Church today, our learning can be summed up in the following images and phrases which he often uses. We are:

- Disciples journeying together
- Companions on a journey of mutual service
- People walking in history towards the fulfilment of the Kingdom
- Walking together with Christ in a new boldness of speech with humility of heart
- On a journey of dialouge, in which we learn how to recognise the presence of Christ walking beside us

The process leading up to this Synod is our chance to grasp the vision of the 2nd Vatican Council. The Synod could be a turning point in the life of the Church, bringing new life and energy for our mission.

On Sunday 10th October the Holy Father opened the Synod with a Mass in St Peters. Every diocese has been asked to celebrate their own opening Mass this Sunday, 17th October. That day the Cardinal will celebrate the Mass for the opening of the Synod at St Teresa's Pro Cathedral at 10am and then that evening at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Palmerston North. We will pray for the success of the Synod at our own Masses on this day.

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You are invited to take part in a global Synod involving the whole People of God. The Opening of the Synod will be celebrated on Sunday 17th October 2021 in every diocese and every parish in the world.

Visit our website to find out how you can participate in this prayerful discernment process. Join your parish groups, get together with friends, invite family members who are no longer connected to the Church to participate and make their voices heard.



*"I encourage you
to take this synodal
process seriously...
the Holy Spirit needs
you... Listen to Him by
listening to yourselves
and do not leave
anyone out
or behind"*

Pope Francis