



For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

Our Lady Crowned Church – Mayfield, Cork.

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B

17th October 2021

HOMILY

The Catholic Church in Ireland and throughout the world is beginning a series of conversations about what God wants of his people at this time, with a focus on the challenges and opportunities it is facing in a rapidly changing society. These conversations will be called the **Synodal Process**.

“**Synodal**” comes from a Greek word which means “**walking together**”.

Therefore for us **Synodal** means walking on the same road together. Last Sunday Jesus, who **encounters** the rich man on the road; he then **listens** to his questions, and finally he helps him **Discern** what he must do to inherit eternal life.”

Pope Francis uses **three verbs** -- “**Encounter, Listen, and Discern**” -- that he hoped would mark the **Synodal Path**.

In order for the process to work we have to be:

1: Able to ENCOUNTER PEOPLE

2: Good at LISTENING – and being able to hear with our hearts.

3: Help people to DISCERN

As a Church we must allow people to express themselves, to walk in faith even though they have had difficulties in life, and to be part of the life of the community without being **Hindered, Rejected, or Judged**.

Participating in a Synod means placing ourselves on the same path as the Word made flesh. **It means following in his footsteps, listening to his word along with the words of others.**

It means discovering with amazement that the Holy Spirit always surprises us, to suggest fresh paths and new ways of speaking.”

For families, young people, men and women - there is a growing awareness of the need for more support for the family as a "**Domestic Church**", of connecting with **young people, and for honouring the contribution of women in the Church.**

This will be a journey of **Spiritual Discernment** guided by God's word.

Myriam Wijlens, a *Canon Lawyer and Synod of Bishops Consultor*, whom I have met on several occasions, - has said **that women need to "present themselves" and speak up "courageously"** during this consultation phase.

"It will also be important to listen to what women from non-Western cultures are saying, she added."

Therefore - It is important that every person adds their voice – **men and women, young and more mature** – **Synodality** is about participation in the decisions that will eventually be made. We are all called to be responsible for being part of the making of decisions while we may not be the ones who take them.

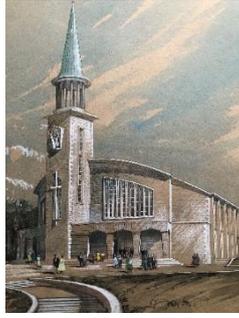
"Synodal listening is oriented towards discernment," in which people listen to each other, - to their faith tradition and to **"the signs of the times in order to discern what God is saying to all of us."** It will take time and patience – accepting difference of ideas and thoughts as the world wide Church reflects together.

In this new phase in the life of our Church - we must personally reach out to the peripheries, to those who have left the Church, those who rarely or never practice their faith, those who experience poverty or marginalisation, refugees, the excluded and the voiceless.

We pray that the next two years will be a time of **Prayer, Listening and Discernment**, involving a consultative conversation. This will allow all people - both within the Church and in society at large, to share their insights into the Catholic Church in Ireland – **past, present and future** – so that we can prepare for a National Synodal Assembly in the coming years.

Bishop Fintan Gavin will celebrate Mass in the Cathedral of St. Mary and St. Anne on **Sunday 17th October at 11.30am** to launch the **Synodal Pathway** here in the Diocese of Cork and Ross.

Fr Charles Kiely PP
Our Lady Crowned Church
Mayfield, Cork.
Sunday, 17th October 2021



Prayer of the Faithful
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B – 17th October 2021.

Celebrant: With faith and trust in God alone we bring our prayer before him.

1. For the Church –

That she may always follow the example of humility and loving service shown by Christ who came to serve and not to be served. **Lord hear us**

2. For leaders in civic society –

May they be guided by the values of the Gospel seeking the common good of all people by the words and their decisions. **Lord hear us**

3. For all who give service in our parish community –

That they may be blessed for their generosity and love for their brothers and sisters in Christ. **Lord hear us**

4. For families –

May parents and godparents be true examples of the love and service of the Jesus as they hand on the faith to the next generation. **Lord hear us**

5. For ourselves, gathered here -

That the Synodal Process which is being launched in our Diocese this Sunday - that may lead us ever deeper into the communion of the Church, foster our participation in it, and equip us to go out on mission. **Lord hear us.**

6. For all who have died –

That they may rest in peace with the Lord in the heavenly Kingdom. **Lord hear us**

Celebrant:

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.

The Prayer of the Synod

Adsumus Sancte Spiritus

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.

Adsumus Sancte Spiritus

Seasaimid i Do láthairse, a Spioraid Naoimh,
agus sinn/muid ag teacht le chéile i D'ainm.
Agus Tusa amháin mar threoraí againn
socraigh Tú féin síos inár gcroíthe;
Múin dúinn an tslí a chaithfimid dul
agus conas is féidir linn leanúint di.
Táimid lag agus claonta chun peaca;
ná lig dúinn ainriail a chur chun cinn.
Ná lig don aineolas sinn/muid a chur amú,
ná don chlaonpháirtíocht ár ngníomhartha a mhúnlú.
Lig dúinn teacht Ort inár n-aontacht
chun go dtrialfaimid le chéile chun na beatha síoraí
gan dul ar strae ó bhealach na fírinne ná ón gceart.
Iarraimid é seo uile Ort,
Tusa a bhíonn ag obair de shíor agus i ngach uile áit,
i gcomaoin an Athar agus an Mhic,
trí shaol na saol. Amen.

Priest's Introduction

As we await with longing
The coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,
dear brothers and sisters,
let us with renewed devotion beseech his mercy,
that, as he came into the world
to bring the Good News to the poor
and to heal the contrite of heart,
so in our own time, also,
he may bring salvation to all in need. AMEN.