

WALKING TOGETHER

Synod Update July 2024



Summer greetings to everybody!

It has been six months since our last newsletter as much of the work related to the Synod on Synodality has been going on behind the scenes with a variety of groups meeting to reflect on the 1st Session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops which met in October 2023.

This reflection has now finished with an 'Instrumentum Laboris' being issued this week which will form the basis for discussions at the 2nd Session being held from 2nd – 27th October. This document can be accessed by clicking on the following link [The Instrumentum Laboris \(synod.va\)](https://www.vatican.va/synodalia/instrumentum-laboris/synod.va) or visit the Vatican's Synod page at www.synod.va

The purpose of the document is to enable discussion at the assembly. Having read the document, some key themes that emerge for me are:

- A call for all the baptised to be missionary disciples in a missionary synodal church.
- A place where everyone is welcome and included.
- That listening; discernment; consultation and transparency must become essential elements in the life of the Church and decision making at every level.
- Development and Formation of everybody, together, so that all can participate, be valued, and feel fully part of the Church.

In addition to this document, 10 'Study groups' have been formed to work further on specific issues. These are exciting times, and we need to keep all those attending the upcoming assembly in our prayers.

And in our Diocese, we also need to begin moving forward again to more firmly embed Synodal ways of working. Some Parishes have already begun to do this, but to support us all, we will be gathering together at Buckfast Conference Centre on Saturday 26th October 2024. Everyone is invited!

It will be an opportunity for us to reflect on the 2nd Session of the Assembly of Bishops which concludes the following day, but the day will be primarily practical, focussing on the practise of 'Conversations in the Spirit'. We will be exploring the why's and how's of how we listen and discern – with each other, and with God. This approach has already become an important outcome of the whole Synodal process and can be used in a whole variety of contexts.

If you would like to attend, please email me by the end of July at synod@prcdtr.org.uk

With every blessing,

Fr Paul Keys.

BECOMING MORE SYNODAL

Saturday 26th October 2024

10am - 3pm

Buckfast Abbey Conference Centre



'Conversations in the Spirit'

What? Why? How?

Facilitated by Sarah Adams

(Director of Adult Education & Evangelisation for Clifton Diocese)

To attend email: synod@prcdtr.org.uk