

WALKING TOGETHER

Synod Update



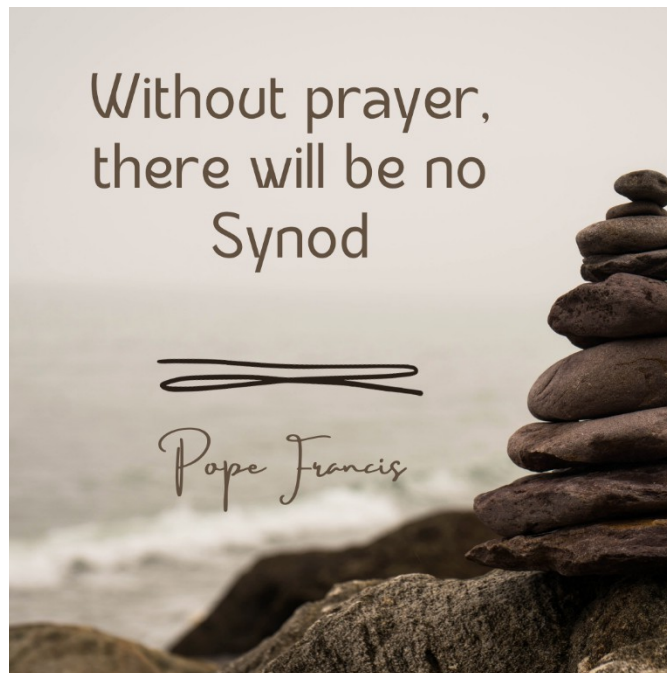
Since our last newsletter, final preparations have been taking place for the upcoming XVI General Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops which will take place from 4th – 29th October 2023. And this gathering will not be just made up of Bishops, but also of lay women and men, clergy and religious as well.

An important part of these preparations has been formed by a document called the 'Instrumentum Laboris'. This can be accessed from the Vatican's website (www.vatican.va) or by clicking on: [Documents \(synod.va\)](http://Documents.synod.va) (It is quite long, but worth it, so grab a cuppa and get reading!)

But although the meeting itself is made up of a relatively small number of people, we are all now being called to **JOIN IN...** through **PRAYER**. 'Every baptised person and every particular Church' (Cardinal Grech – General Secretary of the Synod) is called to take part. Or, in other words, you and me!

To highlight this, Cardinal Grech has sent a letter to all Bishops across the world highlighting the importance of participation through prayer. Although the language is 'official', the message is clear and churches

across the world will be saying prayers on the Sunday before the Assembly begins, and throughout October.



You can access the letter (together with the intercessory prayers and final blessing being used) from the Vatican website (www.vatican.va) or be clicking on: [Without prayer there will be no Synod](#)

In Our Diocese

Over the past few months, parishes, schools and other communities have been coming together in a variety of ways to listen to each other based around the Synodal themes of 'Communion, Participation and Mission'.

During the Assembly our Diocese, along with the whole People of God, will join together in prayer at our Masses. And you may also want to think of other ways in which the communities that you belong to can gather together in prayer either with a specific event or through using the Synod/Assembly as the theme at a regular liturgy/devotion.

Following the Assembly we will, along with the whole Church, engage in a year of reflection and discernment before the Assembly gathers together again in October 2024.

More newsletters will come out over the following months and please contact me with your thoughts, experiences and suggestions of how we, as a Diocese, can build on our good work of 'walking together'. Email synod@prcdtr.org.uk

With every blessing.

Fr Paul Keys

