



Walking together: our Diocesan Synodal Journey



Week 2: Mission

“There is so much richness in our diocese which we need to be open to encountering and receiving, such diversity but all united together in the power of the Spirit of the Risen Jesus.”

Bishop Mark O’Toole

Prayer

*God of hope,
we cling to you,
for you renew the face of the earth.
Through the gift of your Son,
our Lord Jesus,
we follow you on the path of dawn.
Enlightened by your love and wisdom,
help us to lead each other
and all creatures
back to your open arms.
Amen.*

Rachel McCarthy/CAFOD

Luke 3: 1-6

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar’s reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod, tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip, tetrarch of the lands of Iturea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

*‘A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.’*

Reflection

In his letter, 'The Joy of the Gospel', Pope Francis wrote: I dream of a "missionary option", that is a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today's world rather than for her self-preservation. We need to regain our missionary spirit so that the call to holiness we heard in our baptism is expressed by a change of direction.

THEMES FOR THIS WEEK'S REFLECTION

In exploring the themes below participants are invited to:

- Listen actively and without judgment to the Holy Spirit and to others

What is our mission?

What do I understand by mission in my own life?

How am I called to be an active participant in the mission of the Church? What is my role as a disciple in mission?

What spiritual sustenance and formation do I need to be more committed to the mission of the Church?

What is the mission of our parish community?

What does our parish understand by 'mission'?

How does our parish support its members committed to service in society (social and political commitment, scientific research and teaching, the promotion of social justice, the protection of human rights, caring for the Common home, etc.)?

How does our parish identify the goals to be pursued, the way to achieve them, and the steps to be taken?

How does what our parish is doing relate to the Great Commission of Jesus: "*Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and the Son and of the Holy Spirit*" (Matt 28:18-20)?

What impact is our local parish making in the area? Do we make a difference?

What is the mission of the whole Church?

How are we the church as a whole adapting to the changing world and Missionary needs in our society?

After you have reflected on these questions we would like you to share your thoughts.

- complete the attached summary form and return it in a sealed envelope marked "Synod" to Church each week or no later than 2 January 2022
- if you prefer to complete this summary form online please do so and email it to boveytracey@prcdtr.org.uk
- join an informal meeting after Mass on Tuesday 7 December or Sunday 12 December
- take part in a Zoom meeting at 7:00pm on Thursday 9 December – email boveysynod@btinternet.com in advance to register

All responses will be confidential and will be anonymised before being collated and our parish response submitted to the Diocese.