ARCHDIOCESE OF CASHEL & EMLY

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Dear Friends in the Archdiocese of Cashel and Emly,

Today, throughout the world, the universal Church at Diocesan level, begins a journey towards a better understanding of the role of the Church in our world. Pope Francis last Sunday, October 10th launched a Synodal Process in Rome with the hope of building a church "of closeness, compassion and tenderness" and with this aim the theme for the synod is:

"Towards a Synodal Church: Community, Participation and Mission

The main force underpinning this synodal process is the Holy Spirit- without the Holy Spirit there is no Synod. Our prayer today and the prayer of the Church this Sunday and for the journey ahead is "**Come Holy Spirit**".

Pope Francis said at the launching that a synod, is a journey of spiritual discernment that "takes place in adoration, in prayer and in dialogue with the word of God, it is a grace filled event a process of healing guided by the Holy Spirit, or otherwise it becomes a church convention, a study group or a political congress instead of being a grace-filled event, a process of healing guided by the Holy Spirit. The journey must be guided by the Holy Spirit and rooted in prayer, particularly Eucharistic adoration."

In the Archdiocese of Cashel and Emly we began a synodal journey some years ago when we embarked on our listening process and, recently, from that listening process launched our Plan "Seeds of Hope" for the coming years. Through our experience of the listening process, we are now in a unique position to participate in the universal synod.

Pope Francis has stressed that the objective of the Synod "is not to produce more documents, but rather to foster dreams, encourage prophecy and visions, to heal wounds and to bring about a new dawn of hope." I invite the people of our diocese to set out with courage on this Synodal journey and I hope and pray that we can, through prayer, reflection and dialogue fulfil the dream of the Holy Father - that no one is left behind or excluded.

The Archdiocese will organise gatherings at local level over the coming months to enable participation in the synodal process. I invite you to participate in this universal church consultation when the opportunity arises. The synodal journey will conclude in Rome, in October 2023, having passed through diocesan, national and continental phases.

I ask that all pray for the success of this synodal process in our diocese and throughout the world.

Yours in Jesus Christ

+ Kieran O'Reilly

+ Kieran O'Reilly

Sunday, 17th October 2021

Some suggestions that have come from Rome for the Sunday Liturgy of the weekend of 16th/17th October

1. To focus on the Word of God and to solemnly enthrone the Word of God in a procession, as at the opening of every Council and Synod.

2. To invoke the guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead the diocesan phase of the Synodal Process.

3. To entrust the Synodal Process to God, through the maternal intercession of Mary, Queen of the Apostles and Mother of the Church.

4. To emphasize the importance of the Holy Spirit, the central role of Pentecost in the life of the Church, it is suggested that the Liturgy be inspired by the Vigil of Pentecost. The Votive Mass of Holy Spirit can be celebrated, and the Holy Spirit can be invoked through the singing of the Veni Creator Spiritus.

5. The Adsumus Sancte Spiritus prayer can be used to mark the opening of this Synod, asking the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit for the diocese and the whole Church.

6. An image or an icon from Tradition can be utilized to accompany the two-year journey of the Synodal Process (e.g. the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, Jesus accompanying the disciples on the road to Emmaus).

Universal Prayers:

Introduction

As we await with longing for 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.

1 Prayers of the Faithful

1. For God´s holy Church:

   That it may be a light to the nations and the universal sacrament of salvation, walking with all peoples to the Kingdom of God.

2. For Francis our Pope, N. our Bishop, and the holy, faithful People of God in the Diocese of Cashel and Emly that the celebration of this Synod may help us to discern God´s will and to boldly carry it out.

3. For all civil and public authorities: that they may always seek the common good, acting with justice and integrity.

4. For the sick, the lonely, the oppressed, and the suffering: That they may never be discarded, but rather treasured and cared for as the face of Christ in a suffering world.

5. For ourselves, gathered here: That this Synodal Process may lead us ever deeper into the communion of the Church, foster our participation in it, and equip us to go out on mission.

   Other Intentions
   Priest's prayer

   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

This prayer can be widely used throughout the diocesan phase of the Synodal Process. It can likewise be incorporated into the liturgical celebration to open the Synod in local Churches on October 17. Attributed to St. Isidore of Seville (560-636), it has been traditionally used at Councils and Synods for hundreds of years.

The version below was specifically designed for the Church's Synodal journey from 2021 to 2023.

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.