

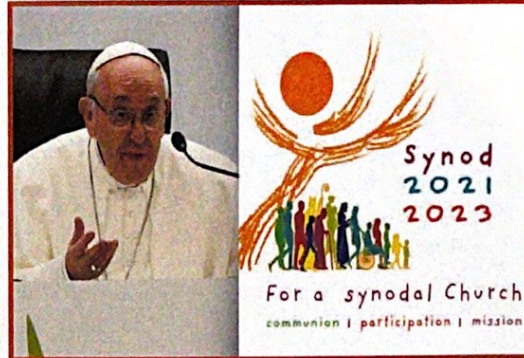
ARCHDIOCESE OF CARDIFF – ARCHESGOBAETH CAERDYDD



AD CLERUM NO. 19 – OCTOBER 2021

Dear Father

Pope Francis launches the world-wide Synodal process in Saint Peter's, Rome, on Sunday 10th October 2021, and it is to be launched in all dioceses on **Sunday 17th October 2021**. This invitation to all the faithful to enter into the Synodal process is the first phase of preparation for the Synod of Bishops in 2023, which is entitled, '**For a synodal Church: communion, participation and Mission**'. Pope Francis is calling the



Church to rediscover its deeply synodal nature which will involve a process of humbly discerning together how God is calling us to be Church in the third millennium. A quite lengthy 'Vademecum' has been produced, but it is offered only as a guide. I would like to encourage you to see this synodal process as something that is very much in harmony with all that we are already trying to do in our diocese, and which can support us in our desire to be more missionary and outward-looking. Synodality is a way by which the Church lives out her mission in the world; it requires the entire People of God to be on a journey together, with each member playing his or her own crucial role.

So Pope Francis is inviting all of us, the People of God in the diocese, to dream about the Church we are being called to become; we are 'to stimulate trust, to bind up wounds, to learn from each other, to enlighten minds, warm hearts and restore strength for our common mission.' (Vademecum). More than simply responding to some questions, the diocesan phase is meant to offer as many people as possible, especially the poor, marginalised and lapsed members of our Church, a truly synodal experience of a Church that desires to listen to and to walk alongside people, as guided by the Holy Spirit. Attached to this Ad Clerum you will find a Synod Timeline. You will also see from the Timeline that the diocese is asked to collate and send in our responses to the Bishops' Conference Secretariat by early February. Please do encourage your parishioners to pray for the guidance and inspiration of God's Holy Spirit throughout this process. Attached to this Ad Clerum you will find a Synod Timetable which has been officially prepared. It provides a good framework for preparation and action. Madeline Walters has agreed to be the Diocesan Synodal Co-ordinator. She will shortly be contacting parishes with proposals for engaging with the Synodal process.

