



Synod 2024

NEWSLETTER



Issue Seven: Sunday, October 13, 2024

Assembly tackles issue of moving towards more Synodal approach

The work of the Synod in Rome has in the past few days focused on the theme of Relations.

The intricate web of relationships within the Church is diverse and operates at multiple levels. Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich outlined the four key paragraphs of the text, including

involving all in passing on the faith to our children, identifying the gifts of all the baptised, the different calls and ministries within the Church, and the mutual support and benefit each of the various churches within the Church can provide to each other. He stressed that the challenge

for the Synod is to provide real guidance and suggestions on how to make the relationships within our churches “more transparent and harmonious” and how to transition from a hierarchical (top down) exercise of authority to a more Synodal approach, in which all are consulted.



The Synod participants in the Paul VI Hall at the Vatican.

A resource from the Dublin Diocesan Synodal Animation Team

Irish bishops invite all to pray for assembly

The Irish bishops prayed for all of the participants at the Synod at their recent meeting and called for people to join them in prayer.

The bishops said: “We invite people of faith to pray throughout October for all members of the Synodal Assembly as, in the words of Pope Francis, ‘without prayer there will be no Synod’. Since 2021, Synodal listening has moved through parish, diocesan, national, and continental stages, fostering continuous dialogue with the Universal Church. While the synodal process nurtures participation and co-responsibility, the discernment of the *Pobal Dé* has been at the heart of the journey, guiding the mission of the Body of Christ into the future.”

Stay up to date



You can follow the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter/X

Help for parish in Gaza

In a video played for journalists at the Holy See Press Office on Tuesday last, Gaza parish priest Fr Gabriel Romanelli thanked Synod participants for both prayers and financial help. The pope’s charity office has announced that Synod participants donated €32,000 for the Catholic parish in Gaza. The Synod donations were combined with another €30,000 from Pope Francis’s charity coffers and sent to Holy Family Parish, *pictured*, the only Catholic parish in the Gaza Strip, which is sheltering hundreds of Palestinian Catholics.



Voices from the Synod

Peace can be built ‘despite years of blind, savage war’

Maronite Bishop Mounir Khairallah of Batrun, Lebanon, *pictured below*, gave his personal testimony of experiencing horror and coming to forgiveness. “I come from a country that has been engulfed in fire and blood for 50 years now,” said Bishop Khairallah, as he recounted how, when he was five years old, someone came to his house and brutally murdered his parents.

He said: “Despite 50 years of blind, savage war – despite everything, we as peoples of all cultures of all confessions, want peace. We are capable of building peace.” His hope is that the Church will be a messenger of the need to live together, respecting each other, and that the Synod will be a step in humanity’s path to freeing ourselves from the great fear of the other.



Please pray for the Synod! Prayer resources and more at dublindiocese.ie/synod2024