

Our Spiritual Life.

Listening to the Faithful: Vatican releases Synod Preparatory Document

The General Secretariat for the Synod has published the [Preparatory Document](#), along with a Handbook to indicate the guiding principles that will direct the path of the Synod on the whole concept of Synodality - **meaning clergy and people walking and working together in the fullness of Christian life.** The solemn opening of the Synod **on how the clergy and the people can and should walk and work together** will take place in Rome on October 9-10, and in the particular Churches [our Diocese and all other Dioceses throughout the world] on October 17; and will conclude in the Vatican in 2023 with the assembly of bishops from around the world.

The Preparatory Document, released on Tuesday, is intended above all to be an instrument opening up **the first phase of listening and consultation of the People of God in the particular Churches**, which will take place from October 2021 to April 2022.

Journeying together

“In other words,” as the document says, “it constitutes a sort of construction site or pilot experience that makes it possible to immediately begin reaping the fruits of the dynamic that progressive synodal conversion introduces into the Christian community.”

The text opens with a fundamental question:

"How does this 'journeying together,' which takes place today on different levels (from the local level such as the Diocese of Motherwell, to the universal one such as the Church in South Korea or Vietnam), allow the Church to proclaim the Gospel in accordance with the mission entrusted to Her; and what steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow as a synodal Church?"

Steps towards synodality

To respond to this question, the Secretariat of the Synod points out some concrete steps. **First of all, it is necessary to live “a participative and inclusive ecclesial process that offers everyone—especially those who for various reasons find themselves on the margins—the opportunity to express themselves and to be heard”;** and then **to recognize and appreciate “the wealth and the variety of the gifts and charisms that the Spirit liberally bestows... for the benefit of the whole human family.”**

Further, it is necessary to examine **“how responsibility and power are lived in the Church, as well as the structures by which they are managed, bringing to light and trying to convert prejudices and distorted practices that are not rooted in the Gospel.”**

We will print sections of the Preparatory Document each week and we will print the documents our Diocese will produce and distribute for us over the coming weeks BUT **the Secretariat of the Synod is asking each Diocese to condense the fruit of their reflections into a maximum of ten pages, supplementing them, if necessary, with other supporting texts. The goal, it insists, “is not to produce documents, but to plant dreams, prophecies, and hopes.”**

We are using the book, *Making Time for Prayer, Jesus and God*, by Fr. Gerald O'Collins, to provide help for parishioners who wish to nourish and deepen their spiritual life. **We continue this week with: Prayer as Indispensable.**

From the birth of the Church on the first Pentecost Sunday, the followers of Jesus met regularly for prayer. The first recorded teaching document in the history of the Church, known as the Didache written just before the end of the first century encouraged the established practice of Christians to pray, to give alms and to do charitable works. Worship of God through prayer [the vertical sign] was placed alongside loving service of our neighbour in need [the horizontal sign]. **If either is missing in the life of a Christian, something is wrong and something is lost.** If prayer is neglected, then concern for others will also soon be neglected. Failure to pray lets the light of faith grow dim and go out altogether. It is, nor has it ever been easy, to commit to regularly setting aside time for prayer. We learn from the Gospels that Jesus regularly took himself away to lonely places to pray. On the night of the Last Supper, he went to the Garden of Gethesemane at the foot of the Mount of Olives to pray. His time of prayer that evening became known in Christian tradition as the first Sorrowful Mystery - The **Agony in the Garden.** Prayer is not expected to be always easy, **but it is always Indispensable.**

St. Brendan's Church – the place of worship and Sacraments for families.

Let us pray that as we seek to nourish our spiritual life through our sense of intimate encounter with Jesus Christ both as individuals and as a faith community, **our hearts will be close to God.**

We have an opportunity to keep our hearts close to God by the way we engage with parents in the preparation of their children for the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation, that is: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Communion and, linked to these Sacraments, also the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Today [Sunday] at 12 noon we welcome the Vietnamese couple Cuong Quang Mai and Diep Thi Ngoc Tran with their two infant children, Justin Mai [who on being baptised will be given the name Anthony as his first name] and Julie Mai [who similarly will be given the name Maria on being baptised]. The parish priest of this family's parish in Hamilton has given permission for the two children to be baptised in St. Brendan's and has praised the commitment which the parents have shown to the practice of the faith.

Today [Sunday] at 2pm we welcome Mark Doyle and Hazel Stewart with their little boy Nathan to be baptised Nathan James, with Godparents Kieran Doyle and Marie Clark. Last year we joined with Mark and Kieran and Stephen with their mum Mary, to celebrate the Requiem Mass of Jim their dad and husband. Now in God's Providence, after that sadness we will join with them in the joy of Nathan's baptism and in this way by helping this family in times of sorrow and of joy, **we keep our hearts close to God.**

Primary 1 pupils in St. Brendan's: we invite all families with children in this class to come to Mass on Sunday 10th October at 10.30AM so that we might greet in our church the new intake of children. If parents who live in another parish wish their child to celebrate any of the Sacraments in this parish because they attend the Primary School, please bring a copy of the child's Baptismal Certificate and give it to one of our Children's Liturgy leaders to be registered here. In the years to come, we want to fulfil our obligation to prepare the children well and joyfully for each of the three Sacraments they will be able to celebrate here.

Last Tuesday evening we welcomed once more the parents and carers of those children in P5 who will receive Holy Communion at Mass on Saturday, Second October at 11 AM for the first time.

We thanked all the parents once again for what they had given of themselves to provide for the proper preparation of their child for this sacrament, which is what the Church asks of them.

The Mass itself will be marked by the emphasis we place on the spirituality of the preparation at home, in the church and in the school. Families should give to Fr. Ness the list of family and friends who will attend this Mass so that the parish's team of stewards can make the best possible provision for them.

The parish will make a gift to each of the twenty-eight children at the Mass of First Holy Communion.

On 3rd October, all the children are invited to assemble again in this church as their community of P5 and be greeted by the parish community at 10.30 Mass, with whom they will now be in full Communion.

A poster is on display at the Entrance to the church and in the hall which shows the names of all the children who will receive Holy Communion on this day. **The parish family will provide a prayer partner for each child to be displayed on the School's banner on the rear wall of the interior.**

The Faith Friends programme for this Sacrament ends today [Sunday] and on Thursday at 3pm in the Children's Liturgy room in the church any child who cannot attend today can complete the programme.

Confirmation on 25th November: The names of the twenty-eight children [out of a possible thirty-seven in P7] who have requested this Sacrament are displayed in the main entrance to the church. Bishop Toal emphasises the need to prepare the Confirmandi very well for the celebration of this Sacrament. **For our part we will use the three letters P - E - W as an easy way to remember the basis of good preparation. PRAYER, ENCOUNTER, WITNESS. Preparation with these children will begin next Sunday, 19th September.** The act of “ENCOUNTER” involves all the young people in P7 who have requested the Sacrament and they should all attend at this Mass. We will lead the *Confirmation Faith Friends* programme for P7 with the help of students from OLHS 6th year Caritas programme. The four-week programme will be presented for an hour after Sunday morning 10.30 Mass.

PRAYER INTENTION REQUESTS FROM PARISHIONERS:

those who have died recently: Rose Thomson; Regina Tasia; Tom Johnstone; Fr. Terry Donnelly.

those whose Month Mind or Anniversary occurs about now: Anna Connelly [22nd]; Agnes Weir [1st]; Mary Whitton [40th]; William Killeen; John McConnell; John Holbourne [1st].

THE YEAR OF THE FAMILY 2021: COMMUNITY AND THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY.

Rose Thomson [recently deceased]: on Thursday morning our second oldest parishioner [aged 97] died peacefully at Netherton Court Care Home, in the presence of her daughters, Marlyn and Pauline. Rose and her husband Hugh who became a janitor at OLHS, had moved to Shields Drive, Muirhouse from Pollock Street in Motherwell to become founder members of the new parish of St. Brendan's. The Thomson family have remained very active in the parish from its beginning until now, just as many have been. *May she rest in peace.* **Funeral details are not yet available.**

Fr. Terry Donnelly [recently deceased]: the Spiritan Fathers based at Carfin and led by Fr. Terry Donnelly had replaced Fr. Ness to celebrate daily Mass for the community several times in the last three years, most recently in the last fortnight. Fr. Donnelly underwent surgery on Monday of this week but died in the early hours of Tuesday morning.

Regina Tasia [recently deceased], the mother of Fr. Tasia who covered this parish annually for Fr. Brown when he was on holiday. Fr. Tasia wrote to Jim O'Hare to ask that his mum be remembered by our community he had served.

Music ministry at the Saturday Vigil Mass: Jamie and Cat Bulloch with their daughter Lucy [P6 - how quickly time can pass] now provide this ministry at 5pm. **Young musicians or singers are invited to join them to form a Group who would work together to develop music at this Mass and others by introducing other instruments and harmonies.** Families with children interested in giving of their musical talent to the community - please come along to this Mass.

The Piety Stall will be opened at the end of each Mass. Please re-enter the church after Mass from the main entrance to browse or buy there. **My Day-by-Day booklets and the Magnificat surplus for September** are available to parishioners from this weekend free of charge. **Please take one of either and use it to your spiritual advantage.**

Last Wednesday, immediately after Mass in the church, the Coffee Morning ladies took up the task to re-establish the social life of the parish. We thank them for their willingness to serve the community in this way and we hope that Mary Collins will soon be restored to good health and be able to resume with them in the kitchen. A presentation was made to Clare McAlinden to mark her ninetieth birthday – recently celebrated and to Margaret Hannah to mark her seventieth birthday. **Clare has already publicly thanked the community for their graciousness and kindness to her last month and now Margaret has asked that her deep gratitude be recorded too.**

Safety in the church and the hall: the stewards will continue to provide all safety measures for those who come to church and to assist Richard if and when necessary to supervise the compliance in the hall. **As a parish we thank all who serve us in this way and in any and every way.** Kathleen's number: 07585-225837; Lynne's number 07803-314555. **No date has been set for re-opening the hall to bookings other than parish led social events.**

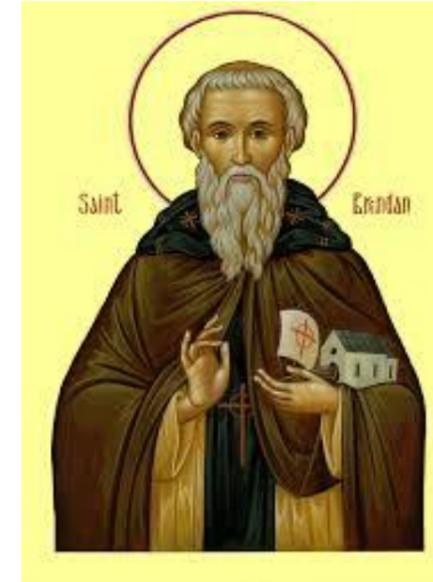
The construction of the platform and ramp will be completed this week. Taylor Construction has asked that the car park be closed during its working hours other than for supervised use of it by those attending the Monday Club. The inclement weather slowed up the work last week. An ornate steel support has been erected by Belhaven Engineering at the entrance from Baron's Road. The Diocesan Property Committee has refused permission to carry out our planned renovation of the car park. The parish's Finance Committee will meet to discuss our response to this outcome.

St. Brendan's the Navigator Parish

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**Twenty-fourth week in Ordinary Time.
Twelfth day of September 2021.**

Second Collection: to help meet the cost of formation/training of our Diocese's priests in the colleges in Rome and in Birmingham and of the deacons.

Liturgies for this week:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday: Mass at 9.30 AM

[streamed live on our Facebook page.]

Saturday: Mass at 9.30AM [celebrated when appropriate as a Votive Mass of Our Lady as Mother of the Church, with the prayer intention of the building up of the worshipping community in our parish]; the Vigil Mass is now at 5pm.

Sunday: Mass at 10.30AM [celebrated and presented for children with their families - please see the Note on page 3 of the bulletin about this Mass] and at 4.30pm.

[Mass on Saturday at 5pm and Mass on Sunday at both 10.30AM and 4.30PM is streamed live on our Facebook page.]