



Synod 2023

NEWSLETTER



Issue Five: Sunday, October 29, 2023

Synod assembly in letter to People of God: Church must listen to everyone

The Synod's participants have issued a letter giving thanks for their experience, detailing the work of the past few weeks, and expressing hope that in the coming months, everyone will be able to "concretely participate in the dynamism of missionary communion indicated by the word 'synod'".

The letter begins: "As the proceedings of the first session of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops draw to a close, we want to thank God with all of you for the beautiful and enriching experience we have lived. We lived this blessed time in profound communion with all of you. We were supported by your prayers, bearing with you your expectations, your questions, as well as your fears. As Pope Francis requested two years

ago, a long process of listening and discernment was initiated, open to all the People of God, no one being excluded, to 'journey together' under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, missionary disciples engaged in the following of Jesus Christ."

The letter also says: "To progress in its discernment, the Church absolutely needs to listen to everyone, starting with the poorest.

"Above all, the Church of our time has the duty to listen, in a spirit of conversion, to those who have been victims of abuse committed by members of the ecclesial body, and to commit herself concretely and structurally to ensuring that this does not happen again."

● *Full letter at www.dublindiocese.ie/synod2023*



Synod participants in the Paul VI Hall including, back right, Bishop of Limerick Brendan Leahy and Bishop of Raphoe Alan McGuckian.

A resource from the Dublin Diocesan Synodal Steering Committee

Archdiocese of Dublin

God is our guide on this journey – cardinal

Cardinal Charles Maung Bo of Yangon, Myanmar, the president of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference, gave the homily during the Synod on Synodality's Mass in St Peter's Basilica on Monday morning. He focused on 'The Long March Towards the Synodality of Hope, Peace and Justice.'

The Cardinal noted that in Scripture, as far back as Adam and Eve, we observe that humanity has been on an unceasing spiritual quest, an odyssey marked by an unwavering search for meaning.

Abraham, the father of our faith, the Cardinal noted, was called to step into the unknown, and St Paul, in the first reading from the Letter to the Romans, presents Abraham as an exemplar.

"Our Synodal journey," he went on to say, "is not a pre-programmed space odyssey with fixed mathematical equations. Rather, when God calls us, He becomes our guide, our roadmap, and our companion."



Cardinal Charles Maung Bo celebrating Mass in St Peter's Basilica

Voices from the Synod

Sister Samuela: I am touching the Church's universality at Synod

Sister Samuela Maria Rigon, superior general of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother in Italy, a professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University, is participating in the Synod as a member appointed by Pope Francis.

Sister Samuela, pictured, said: "The Synod is proving to be a very enriching experience, in which I am touching the universality of the Church. An experience that is an invitation to humility; and my point of view is just a window on the horizon that can help build a beautiful mosaic."



"Since yesterday, I have been carrying with me three words from the Eucharistic liturgy where the Apostle Paul spoke to us of hard-working faith, hard work in charity, firmness in hope in Jesus Christ. If this were to come out of this Synod, we would have already made a real revolution in a positive sense."

"This is because we have received an important seed that God will make grow in spite of us or with us".

Stay up to date



You can follow the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter/X. For links to these channels – and to extended versions of these articles – visit www.dublindiocese.ie/synod2023

Please pray for the Synod! Prayer resources and more at dublindiocese.ie/synod2023