



Archdiocese of Cape Town

Office of the Auxiliary Bishop of Cape Town

Notice to all Parish Priests, Clergy, Lay Leaders, Religious, Catholic Institutions and Outreach Ministries

Synod 2021 — 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

On 21 May of this year the Holy See announced the upcoming synod of Bishops to be held in Rome in October 2023. In this regard I refer you to my letter sent out on 7 September outlining the launching of the Synod in Rome on 9/10 October, and the Diocesan launch on 17th October 2021. That letter is attached for easy reference. We ask that this introductory “Synodal Moment” be well advertised and that people be encouraged to pray for the fruitfulness of the process. We have not yet received any template for the launch of the Synod and recommend that the **Proper for a Council or a Synod** as given in the Roman Missal be used.

In preparation for the actual Synod several phases and much consultation will have to take place. We are now preparing for the first phase of listening at diocesan level. This phase is meant to run from October 2021 – April 2022. We have a coordinating team of 14 lay and 20 ordained persons who will assist with this process.

All recipients of this letter are encouraged to download and read the synodal documents posted on the Archdiocesan and Vatican webpages and to promote the *adsumus prayer*. In addition to www.synod.vatican.va, additional resources which are particularly useful for Clergy, Superiors and other leaders can be found on <https://www.synod.va/en/resources.html>. In addition, become familiar with the notion of *synodality* and with the key terms of **Communion, Participation, and Mission** listed under point 1.4 of the *vademecum*. The fifth bulleted point under Appendix A of the *vademecum* gives a useful synthesis of what is needed and encourages inter-parish dialogue and engagement.

In due course i.e. after the initial meeting of the coordinating team, points for discussion on Parish and small group levels will be sent out. At this stage, we encourage an active reading of the documentation – and a planning of how best we can take the matter forward in this time of Covid restrictions.

We rely on the intercessions of our patroness, Mary of the Flight into Egypt as we “journey together”.

Fraternally

+ Sylvester David
OMI

Bishop S. David OMI
VG/Auxiliary Bishop



21st September 2021