



Archdiocese of Cape Town

Office of the Auxiliary Bishop of Cape Town

To All Parish Priests/Administrators, Lay Leaders and Religious Superiors

Launch of the Synod in the Archdiocese

As indicated in my letters dated 7th and 21st September 2021, we recommend the use of the **Proper for a Council or a Synod** in the Roman Missal for the Archdiocesan launch of the Synod on 17th October 2021. This has to be done on a Parish or Religious Community Level. For the launch by Pope Francis on 9 and 10 October all are encouraged to follow the proceedings on the following site: <https://www.youtube.com/c/VaticanNewsEN/featured>

The General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops has put out beautiful liturgical ideas for the launch of the Synod in the Local Churches. These are available on the site: https://abliturgy.files.wordpress.com/2021/09/en_liturgia_17.pdf.

Although we recommend these ideas for inspiration, our need to practice safety during the pandemic places limitations on processions, and other liturgical actions which would curb the brevity recommended during the pandemic. The “Enthroning of the Bible” is strongly recommended, as are the ideas for preaching on that day – but ultimately this will be left to the discretion of the celebrant.

General intercessions given by the Secretariat (as outlined below) may be used:

Priest's Introduction

As we await with longing
The coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,
dear brothers and sisters,
let us with renewed devotion beseech his mercy,
that, as he came into the world
to bring the Good News to the poor
and to heal the contrite of heart,
so in our own time, also
he may bring salvation to all in need.

Prayers of the Faithful

1. For God's holy Church:
That it may be a light to the nations and the universal sacrament of salvation, walking with all peoples to the Kingdom of God.
2. For Francis our Pope, Stephen our Bishop, Sylvester his Auxiliary, and the holy, faithful People of God in the Archdiocese of Cape Town:
That the celebration of this Synod may help us to discern God's will and to boldly carry it out.
3. For all civil and public authorities:
That they may always seek the common good, acting with justice and integrity.
4. For the sick, the lonely, the oppressed, and the suffering:

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That they may never be discarded, but rather treasured and cared for as the face of Christ in a suffering world.

5. For ourselves, gathered here:
That this Synodal Process may lead us ever deeper into the communion of the church, foster our participation in it, and equip us to go out on mission.

Priest's prayer

O God, our refuge and our strength,
hear the prayers of your Church,
for you yourself are the source of all devotion,
and grant, we pray, that what we ask in faith
we may truly obtain.
Through Christ our Lord.

We trust that the launch of the Synod will be a meaningful occasion and that it will inspire the faithful to a deeper awareness of our identity as “companions on a journey”.

Fraternally



Bishop S. David OMI
VG/Auxiliary Bishop



6 October 2021

For those who do not have the *Adsumus* Prayer for this Synod, I include it hereunder:

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.
Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen.