



Archdiocese of Cape Town



Centre for Pastoral Development

24 February 2022

Synod Focus Sunday and Implementing the Synod on the Parish Level

Dear Bishops, Fathers, Reverend Deacons and PPC Chairpersons

Thank you to all those who participated in the synod implementation training at St Anthony's, Langa, on Saturday, 12 February. Those who registered for this event will have received a copy of the training booklet prior to the event and an updated version has been sent via email subsequently to all participants.

This Sunday, 27 February, is designated as "synod focus Sunday" in the Archdiocese of Cape Town, with a view to launching the process in parishes in March and April (and May if needed). We recommend that an intercession in the Prayer of the Faithful concerning the synod be included, such as:

*For the synod, that we may generously engage in the synod process and reflect a Church which is marked by communion, participation, and mission.
Lord, hear us. R/ Lord, graciously hear us.*

In addition to this, the Prayer for the Synod, the *Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus* (Prayer of invocation to the Holy Spirit), could be prayed during the weekend Masses. A copy of this prayer can be found on the Vatican's synod page at:

<https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/document/common/adsumus/EN-ADSUMUS.pdf>

Perhaps the homily could make some reference to the synod process and some practical details could be given during the notices. A short video by the Archbishop on the synod could also be played during the notices, or the just the audio recording, or this could be sent out via parish communication channels. There is an excellent video explaining the synod, which can also be sent out to parishioners. Both the Archbishop's video and the *Synod on Synodality – All you need to know* video are on the Archdiocese's website at:

<https://adct.org.za/synod-2021-2023/>



The updated training and parish synod resource booklet are also available on the Archdiocesan website at the same link. There are very practical suggestions for group meetings and the role of facilitators and scribes.

At the synod training morning on 12 February, Fr Gerry Walmsley gave a very helpful overview of what the synod is and why it is so important. A recording of his talk is available at the same link on the website.

We ask that parish submissions on the synod be sent to synodadct@gmail.com by 15 June 2022 (template and instructions are on the website at the same link).

A reminder of the proposed timeline for synod process in parishes and in the Archdiocese:
27 February 2022 – Synod Focus Sunday (prayer of the faithful; mention in the homily; showing/airing of Archbishop’s video; sending out link to video explaining the synod; and giving practical details to parishioners).

March and April and May 2022 – Group meetings in parishes.

May 2022 - Beginning of collation of submissions at a parish level.

15 June 2022 – Deadline for collated parish submissions to be sent to synodadct@gmail.com

25 June 2022 - Closing celebration and symbolic handover of parish responses

July 2022 – Collation of submissions on a diocesan level.

In Christ,



Fr Zane Godwin

Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Development - Archdiocese of Cape Town

fr.zane@adct.org.za

