

SYNOD PREPARATION IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN

WEEK 1 OF PRAYER



“Journeying together, announcing the Gospel”

Prayer for the Synod: *Adsumus Sancte Spiritus*

Every session of the Second Vatican Council began with the prayer *Adsumus Sancte Spiritus*, the first word of the original Latin, meaning, “We stand before You, Holy Spirit,” which has been historically used at Councils, Synods and other Church gatherings for hundreds of years, and is attributed to Saint Isidore of Seville (c. 560 - 4 April 636). As we embrace this Synodal Process, this prayer invites the Holy Spirit to be at work in us so that we may be a community and a people of grace. Let us commit to praying this prayer every day.

**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.**

Short Daily Scripture Passages:

- Sunday, 17 October: Mark 10:35-45
- Monday: Mark 1: 14-21
- Tuesday: Mark 10: 21
- Wednesday: Matthew 28: 16-20
- Thursday: Luke 9: 1-6
- Friday: Luke 10:1-3;17
- Saturday: John 17:17-23

Reflection for the week on: "Journeying together, announcing the Gospel"

As Jesus Christ began his public ministry, men and women of all different backgrounds, beliefs, and cultures, followed him. All were welcomed and accepted. Together with Jesus they journeyed along the way of faith, listening to Him, learning from Him and experiencing Him. And when the right time came, he send them to other towns to share in His ministry. He did not send them out alone but in sent them out in groups to proclaim, heal and to reconcile the world back to God and humanity back to each other. Through our baptism we share in this mission. This is not an individual mission but it is a communal mission, it is the mission of the Church, to which we all belong.

The Church does not exist in isolation but exist in a larger community. Our mission as Church must also include those around us. We are called to love them, care for them and minister to them but above all we are called to journey with them.

Journeying together, announcing the Gospel begins with my own response to God's call and my own participation in the mission of Christ but it does not end there. It must then extent to the Church and finally beyond Church.

Prayer for this week:

Heavenly Father,

You choose us and called us to be your adopted sons and daughters.

Out of your infinite love you sent your only beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to save and redeem us.

Through the Holy Spirit you empowered us to proclaim your message to the ends of the world. As we journey as members of the Body of Christ, may that same Spirit refresh in us the presence of your love and compassion as we persevere in announcing the gospel, trusting always in your goodness.

We ask this through Christ our Lord

Amen

We hope that you will enter this period of preparation for our Archdiocesan Synod Consultation open to the Holy Spirit and with a deep desire to grow closer to God and one another as we make our journey together! Next week we will pray for an openness to Mission.

Archbishop Mandla