



# Synod 2024

NEWSLETTER



Issue Six: Sunday, October 6, 2024

## 'Pray that Word of God will bear abundant fruit' at 2024 Synod

In the first of two days of retreat before the formal opening of the General Assembly of the Synod, Cardinal Mario Grech, the Synod secretary general, invited participants to strip themselves of preconceived "approaches and schemes" and instead entrust Second Session to Mary, the model of listening.

Cardinal Grech, pictured below, expressed his hope that the Synod Assembly that is being inaugurated will be that "good soil in which the Word of God can bear abundant fruit".

In this month dedicated to Mary, he invited participants to pray the Rosary assiduously throughout their work.

All participants will be given a Rosary, "so that this prayer may accompany us on the journey of these days" through that "incessant contemplation on the Word of God" that the Rosary itself proposes. The mysteries of Rosary, the Cardinal said,



Lay and ordained delegates, women and men, at prayer at the Synod last Wednesday

follow the whole life of Jesus, ensuring that He remains the focus. "With the Rosary," he said, "we learn, like Mary, to be disciples of the Lord."

Cardinal Grech concluded his address with the hope that the Synod "might be a renewed Pentecost, so that the Gospel of Jesus may continue to fertilise the life of all humanity; and that we may be a synodal and missionary Church."

● *Bishop Brendan Leahy of Limerick and Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ of Down & Connor are at the second and final session of the Synod on Synodality in Rome, which began last Wednesday, October 2. Its theme is **For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission**. Also attending from Ireland are Professor Eamonn Conway, a priest of the Archdiocese of Tuam, Sister Mary Teresa Barron OLA and Sister Patricia Murray IBVM.*

**A resource from the Dublin Diocesan Synodal Animation Team**

## Dominican preacher's Resurrection reflection

At the Synod retreat in Rome last Monday morning, former master of the Order of Preachers Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP offered a reflection on *Resurrection: Searching in the Dark* to those who are now participating in the Second Session of the 16th General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops.

Fr Radcliffe, pictured right, said: "Last year on retreat we mediated on how to listen to each other. How may we face



our differences in hope, opening our hearts and minds to each other? Some barriers did fall and I hope that we began to see those with whom we disagree not as opponents but as fellow disciples, fellow seekers. "This year we have a new focus: 'How to be a missionary synodal Church.' But the foundation of all that we shall do is the same: patient, imaginative, intelligent, open-hearted listening."

Fr Radcliffe's address can be read at [www.vaticannews.va](http://www.vaticannews.va).

## Assembly meeting for the next three weeks in Vatican

The second synodal assembly is meeting in Rome from October 2 to 27. The event was preceded by a two-day spiritual retreat at the Vatican on September 30 and October 1. The retreat was led by the Synod's spiritual advisors, Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP and Sister Maria Ignazia Angelini OSB, pictured below. These days of prayer and meditation concluded with a penitential vigil presided over by Pope Francis on October 1 in St Peter's Basilica, during which the Church asked the world for forgiveness for its sins, in particular the sexual abuses committed in its midst. Pope Francis inaugurated the synodal assembly on October 2 during a Mass in St Peter's Square. The first day's work then commenced a few steps away in the Paul VI Hall. Participants heard introductions from the Holy Father and the heads of the Synod secretariat as well as a presentation of the work of 10 commissions set up by the Pope on issues emerging during the October 2023 session. The study group of African bishops and a canon law commission also shared their progress. Discussions and reflections will continue until October 18. During the last week of the Synod, work will begin on drafting the final report.



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## The 'Working Document'

The ongoing Synod's meetings are reflecting on and discussing a document called the *Instrumentum Laboris* ("Working Document"), which was published in July. It is based on what emerged during the first synodal assembly in October 2023. A series of frequently asked questions about the document can be found at [www.synod.va](http://www.synod.va).

Please pray for the Synod! Prayer resources and more at [dublindiocese.ie/synod2024](http://dublindiocese.ie/synod2024)