

Walking Together

Synodal Update for the Diocese of Plymouth



Welcome to the September 2022 'Walking Together' Update

We are now stepping back as Diocesan Co-contacts and would like to thank all those who helped make the first phase of our Synodal Journey so rewarding. We look forward to seeing how this journey unfolds and give thanks to the Spirit that is at work in our world. We are sure that this will continue to be a fruitful and spirit-filled journey.

Canon John Deeny and Deborah Fisher Diocesan Co-contacts

Message from Canon Paul Cummins, Diocesan Administrator

As a Diocese, we have made a good start at becoming more 'synodal' and I would particularly like to thank the core team led by Deborah Fisher and Canon John Deeny, together with over a hundred Parish facilitators for their leadership and commitment. I would also like to thank all of you who have responded so positively to this call from Pope Francis. However, as Pope Francis has also clearly pointed out, this is not a 'one off' event. The journey has only just begun.

So in the light of this, I have asked Fr Paul Keys to become our new 'Diocesan Synodal Co-Ordinator' and take the lead in facilitating our continued Journey. I am glad to say that he has agreed, and I thank him for his generosity.

Over the following months, Fr Paul and his team will be exploring ways in which we can all reflect on what has happened so far, and where we need to go next as a diocese involving every Parish, School, Chaplaincy, and more besides. This begins with us as clergy, called to serve by leading our people on this journey.

I know you will give Fr Paul your support in this essential task.

God Bless

Canon Paul Cummins

Jesus Christ, our Brother and Friend, who taught us to address to God as a Father, leaving us simple words of your encounter with Him, receive our desire to live this Synodal Path as a time of personal and community prayer, a prayer of closeness.

We can do nothing without your "living and active" Word, that pierces our hearts and discerns our thoughts.

May the encounter with Your Sharp Word set us free from being a nice Church convention without Your grace and far from You.

Guide this Synodal Path and turn it into a healing process and a grace-filled event.

Help us to be pilgrims in love with the Gospel, seekers of You, and with the conviction that You always come with your love to meet us first.

Amen.

<https://tinyurl.com/29br3b58>



The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.

Matthew 13:31-32

MESSAGE FROM FR PAUL KEYS

I am both honoured and happy to take on this responsibility.

We began our synodal journey as a Diocese almost a year ago and it has already, I believe, brought many fruits to our Church. However, as Canon Paul said, 'the journey has only just begun'. So it is essential that we do not stop now, but continue to be led by the Holy Spirit. As the pilgrim people of God wherever we are: as individuals; in Parishes, Schools, Chaplaincies and beyond; this is what we do.

This can be both unnerving...

Where will the journey take us? I don't know.

Will we take some wrong turns and dead ends? Probably.

Will there be differences of opinion along the way? Definitely.

And exciting...

Will we go where the Holy Spirit leads us? Yes.

Will we grow? Yes.

Will it be worth it? Yes.

In the months to come, we will need to reflect on the journey so far and see where we go next. If anyone has any thoughts on ways we might do this, or anything else they would like to share, please let me know.

You can contact me through email at synodfeedback@prcdtr.org.uk : or write to me at:

The Presbytery; 4 Lewens Lane; Wimborne; Dorset BH21 1LE

With every blessing

Fr Paul Keys, (Diocesan Synodal Co-Ordinator)

You can find the Diocesan Synthesis and national documents on our website <https://www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/synod/>

