

Liturgy of the Opening Mass of the Diocesan Phase of the Synod

[17 October 2021 – 29th Sunday of the Year B]

Theme: For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission

Readings: Isa 53:10-11; Ps 33; Heb 4:14-16; Mk 10:35-45

[Presidential prayers from the Roman Missal ‘For a Council or a Synod’]

Commentary: Introduction before the Service

Today we begin the diocesan phase of the Synod, which will continue till January 2022, and will continue in other phases leading to the XVI Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome in October 2023. Synod - from the Greek ‘syn’ and ‘hodos’ - simply means ‘journeying together’. As Church, we journey together with the Holy Spirit and Jesus who is the “way” (Jn 14:6). Jesus’ passion, death and resurrection gave rise to a movement of his disciples called ‘the Way’ (Acts 9:2; 19:9, 22:4). This ‘Way’ - of people with diverse spiritual gifts and charisms (1 Cor 12) - was filled with a deep sense of service and mission. They saw themselves as servants of the community. In today’s readings, we shall see that this was not always the case with them. But, with Jesus’ passion, death, resurrection and with the gift of the Spirit at Pentecost, they were totally transformed. During this Eucharist, let us reflect on the journeying of Jesus’ disciples together with him, and let us also pray for the success of the synod in our own Archdiocese. This journeying together with Jesus will symbolically be represented by a procession as the starting point of the Synodal Process. The procession will begin at the entrance of the Cathedral where baptismal holy water font is placed as a reminder of our common Baptism, which unites us all together as children of God called to holiness. The procession includes the carrying of the book of the Gospels and a Marian icon symbolizing the accompaniment of Christ and our blessed Mother.

Entrance Hymn - English

The Book of the Gospels precedes the Procession. Processional hymn is sung. Following the Book of the Gospels, a Marian icon is carried. The Book of the Gospels will be placed on the altar and the Marian icon near the altar. The Bishop venerates the altar with a kiss and, incenses the cross, the Marian icon and the altar. Then, he goes to the chair.

Welcome & Felicitation – Fr. Franklin Menezes, Pro Vicar.

The Introductory Rites

C: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R: Amen.

C: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

R: And with your Spirit.

C: Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

R: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

C: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

R: Amen.

Kyrie - English

Gloria - English

COLLECT

C: O Lord, ruler and guardian of your Church, pour out, we pray, upon your servants a spirit of truth, understanding and peace, that they may strive with all their heart to know what is pleasing to you and then pursue it with all their strength. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever, Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

FIRST READING: Is 53:10-11 - **Bengali**

Psalms: Ps 33 - **Bengali**

SECOND READING: Heb 4:14-16 – **Hindi**

Acclamation: **Hindi**

GOSPEL: Mark 10:35-45

Homily

Litany of Saints and the Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Commentary: We shall now have the Litany of Saints. We will call upon our brothers and sisters in the Litany of Saints in heaven to help us on our synodal journey, by their intercession before God. Let us kneel.

Lord have mercy **R. Lord have mercy**
Christ have mercy **R. Lord have mercy on us**
Lord have mercy **R. Lord have mercy**
Christ hear us **R. Christ graciously hear us**
God the Father of heaven

R. Have mercy on us

God the Son Redeemer of the world
God the Holy Spirit
Holy Trinity One God
Holy Mary

R. Pray for us

Holy Mother of God
Holy Virgin of virgins
St. Michael
St. Gabriel
St. Raphael
All the holy angels and archangels
St. John the Baptist
St. Peter
St. Paul
St. Matthew
St. Mark
St. Luke
St. John
St. Jude
St. Joseph
All the holy apostles and holy innocents
All the disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ
St. Stephen
St. Lawrence
St. Sebastian
St. Cecelia
St. John of the Cross
All the holy martyrs and holy saints
St. Augustine
St. Cosmos and Damian
St. Ignatius
St. Francis Xavier
St. Francis de Sales
St. Anthony
All the holy bishops and confessors
St. Perpetua and Felicity
St. Thomas Aquinas
St. Francis of Assisi
St. Vincent
St. John Bosco
St. Vianney
St. Agnes
St. Catherine of Sienna

St. Monica
St. Elizabeth
St. Teresa of Avila
St. Veronica
St. Aloysius
St. Dominic Savio
St. Maria Goretti
St. Alphonsa
St. Teresa of Calcutta
St. John Paul
All the saint of our God

Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world

R. Spare us O Lord

Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world

R. Graciously hear us O Lord

Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world

R. Have mercy on us

C: Almighty ever-living God, be present by the mysteries of your great love and send forth the spirit of adoption to renew your Church, so that what is to be carried out by our humble service may be brought to fulfilment by your mighty power. Through Christ our Lord.

Commentary: Let us rise. Synodality denotes the particular style that qualifies the life and mission of the Church, expressing her nature as the People of God journeying together and gathering in assembly. The entire People of God shares a common dignity and vocation through Baptism by which they are endowed with diverse gifts and charisms for the renewal and building up of the Church, as members of the Body of Christ. Thus, the teaching authority of the Pope and the bishops is in dialogue with the *sensus fidelium*, the living voice of the People of God. To signify this, we shall now have the renewal of the Baptismal Promises.

C: Dear brothers and sisters, through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with him in newness of life. And so, let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism, by which we promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church.

C: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

R: I do.

C: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

R: I do.

C: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

R: I do.

C: And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins, keep us by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord, for eternal life.

R: Amen.

The celebrant sprinkles the people with the blessed water, while all sing.

Hymn

Prayers of the Faithful

Inspired by the 10 thematic nuclei of the Preparatory Document

C: As we begin our synodal journeying together, let us pray as one united body, the Church, for the Holy Spirit to guide us in all our processes of dialogue and discernment.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer

[English]

1. For the Church. That we may journey as companions, side by side one another on the same road. We pray to the Lord.

2. For listening ears. That our hearts and minds be open to listening to others without prejudice. We pray to the Lord.

[Bengali]

3. For the gift of speaking out. That we be encouraged in this Synod journey to speak with courage and *parrhesia*, integrating freedom, truth, and love. We pray to the Lord.

4. For a Church that celebrates. That our journey together in the coming months will be based on listening together to the Word of God and the celebration on the Eucharist in the communion of the People of God. We pray to the Lord.

[Hindi]

5. For our participation in the Mission of Christ. That through our Synodal journey together, we may grow in our shared responsibility of the mission that is entrusted to us. We pray to the Lord.

6. For true dialogue in the Church and in Society. That through a path of perseverance, patience, and mutual understanding, we may be attentive to the experience of persons and peoples. We pray to the Lord.

[Santali]

7. For the unity of Christians. That dialogue between Christians of different denominations, united by one Baptism, may radiate with new brightness on this Synodal journey. We pray to the Lord.

8. For the exercise of authority and participation in the People of God. That the Synodal roots of the Church will bear fruit in new ways of being at the service of one another at all levels of the Body of Christ. We pray to the Lord.

[English]

9. For our discernment to be led by the Holy Spirit. That all decisions made on this Synodal path may be discerned through a consensus that flows from our common obedience to the Holy Spirit. We pray to the Lord.

10. For a spirituality of journeying together. That we may be formed as disciples of Christ, as families, as communities, and as human beings, through our experience of this Synodal journey. We pray to the Lord.

C: O God, our refuge and our strength, as we journey together with you, 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, Amen.

Offertory: Santali & Hindi

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

C: Look upon the offerings of your servants, O God of all compassion, and bestow on them the grace of your light, that they may have a true understanding of what is right in your eyes and boldly carry it out, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

All: Amen.

PREFACE: The Holy Spirit A

C: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your Spirit.

C: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

C: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right and just.

C: It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, Holy Father, almighty and eternal God. Through Christ our Lord.

Ascending above all the heavens and sitting at your right hand, he poured out the promised Holy Spirit on your adopted children. Therefore, now and for ages unending, with all the hosts of Angels, we sing to you with all our hearts, crying out as we acclaim.

R: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...

[English]

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER III

C: You are indeed Holy, O Lord, and all you have created rightly gives you praise, for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, by the power and working of the Holy Spirit, you give life to all things and make them holy, and you never cease to gather a people to yourself, so that from the rising of the sun to its setting a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.

CC: Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you: by the same Spirit graciously make holy these gifts we have brought to you for consecration, that they may become the Body and + Blood of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, at whose command we celebrate these mysteries. For on the night he was betrayed, he himself took bread, and giving you thanks he said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT: FOR THIS IS MY BODY WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice and giving you thanks he said the blessing, and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK, FROM IT: FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD, THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT; WHICH WILL BE Poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

C: The mystery of faith:
Proclamation: Santali.

CC: Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial of the saving Passion of your Son, his wondrous Resurrection and Ascension into heaven, and as we look forward to his second coming, we offer you in thanksgiving this holy and living sacrifice.

Look, we pray, upon the oblation of your Church, and, recognizing the sacrificial Victim by whose death you willed to reconcile us to yourself, grant that we, who are nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son and filled with his Holy Spirit, may become one body, one spirit in Christ.

C1: May he make of us an eternal offering to you, so that we may obtain an inheritance with your elect, especially with the most blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, blessed Joseph her Spouse, with your blessed Apostles and glorious Martyrs, with St. Francis Xavier, St. Teresa of Calcutta and with all the Saints, on whose constant intercession in your presence we rely for unfailing help.

C2: May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation, we pray, O Lord, advance the peace and salvation of all the world. Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity your pilgrim Church on earth, with your servant Francis our Pope and Thomas our Bishop, the Order of Bishops, all the clergy, and the entire people you have gained for your own. Listen graciously to the prayers of this family, whom you have summoned before you: in your compassion, O merciful Father, gather to yourself all your children scattered throughout the world.

C3: To our departed brothers and sisters and to all who were pleasing to you at their passing from this life, give kind admittance to your kingdom. There we hope to enjoy forever the

fullness of your glory through Christ our Lord through whom you bestow on the world all that is good.

Doxology: Bengali

R: Amen.

The Communion Rite

C: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

C: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

R: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.

C: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles, Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

R: Amen.

C: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

R: And with your spirit.

C: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Lamb of God - Santali

C: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Hymn: Bengali & English

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

C: Grant, we pray, O merciful God, that the holy gifts we have received may confirm your servants in the truth and prompt them to seek the honour of your name, through Christ our Lord.

R: Amen.

Commentary: We shall now have the Prayer of the Synod which is called *Adsumus Sancte Spiritus* in Latin. This prayer will be used throughout the diocesan phase of the Synodal Process. Attributed to St. Isidore of Seville, it has been traditionally used at Councils and Synods for hundreds of years. To symbolize the handing over a sign of the mission which is the theme of the synodal journey, we invite 3 representatives from each deanery who will

receive a sign of the mission of the Synod. After the Prayer of the Synod they will go to the Marian icon and the Archbishop will give them a lighted candle as a sign of the mission of the Synod.

Adsumus Sancte Spiritus

*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.*

Hymn to the Holy Spirit

The Concluding Rites

C: The Lord be with you.

R: And with your spirit.

C: Bow your heads and pray for God's blessings.

C: We are the Body of Christ, and each one of us is a member of it. You who are His People, may the Lord keep you in the unity of His love so that the world may come to believe!

R: Amen.

C: We all are called to holiness! You, the religious, the lay faithful, and the entire People of God, encourage one another to live according to the light of the Gospel!

R: Amen.

C: The Body of Christ is built up through diverse charisms and ministries. You, deacons, priests, and all ministers of the People of God, may the Lord keep you faithful and joyful in the service of the mission of the Church!

R: Amen

C: May almighty God bless + you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

R: Amen.

C: Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn: Bengali

