

Update on the Synod on Synodality...March 2025

Pope Francis has just commissioned the Church to move into an **implementation stage** leading up to an, “**Ecclesial Assembly**” in Rome in Oct 2028.

Cardinal Grech wrote to all Bishops on 15th March announcing the commencement of this phase, it included a form which Bishops must submit with the names of members of a Diocesan Synodal team to oversee the first part of this stage..

June 25-Dec 26 to begin **synodality in parishes, deaneries and Diocese**

There will then follow **Diocesan Assemblies** (first half of 2027)
National “ (second half of 2027)
Continental “ (first half of 2028)

to evaluate and share the ideas generated, by fostering dialogue about insights gained. Following the publication of a preparatory working document, it is envisaged that the **Ecclesial Assembly** will include Bishops, Clergy, Religious and Lay representatives.

This process expects synodality to be implemented in ways adapted to local cultures and circumstances, facilitating an “exchange of gifts” rather than simply channelling directives from above.

The final document from the Synod is now available to purchase from Pauline Books and Media, and is focused on putting into action what the 2nd Vatican Council taught about the Church as Mystery and People of God; called to holiness through a continuous conversion that comes from listening to the Gospel, offering insights and guidance on communion, participation and mission, shaped by listening, discernment and the Holy Spirit.

The School for Synodality website has useful material on this and the “Conversation in the Spirit” tool, and the Diocese of Westminster has published a ”takeaway” summary of the final document “an informal reaping of the fruits”, which can be accessed via the CBCEW website..

The work of the 10 study groups, created after the Synod to examine some topics in more detail, are still working and expected to produce final or interim reports in June.

It has been said, more than once, that this process of synodality is not about creating mountains of paper or holding loads of meetings, but about working together to move forward together, closer to Jesus. The lengthening of the process demonstrates the difficulty of moving forward together, but also the commitment of Pope Francis and others to see it through.

Can you commit to playing your part in this? Further details expected soon....