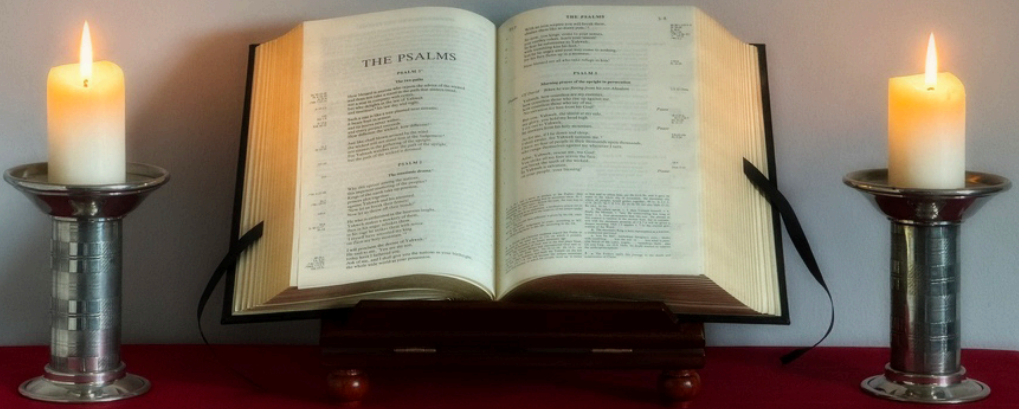




Diocese of Motherwell

PRAYERS FOR THE SYNOD



You are invited to join fellow Catholics throughout the Diocese of Motherwell in these prayers during the month of October 2023.

We ask God our Father to send his Holy Spirit on the Synod meeting in Rome, so that our delegates more fully discern his will for the Church. As we become ever more one in Christ, may all of us commit to ever deeper communion, participation, and mission, so that God's Kingdom be built up in our world and throughout creation.

The following prayers are based on the official prayer of the Church, the *'Liturgy of the Hours'* or *'Divine Office'*, presented here in a slightly simplified format for ease of use.

The format is as follows -

Opening Prayer

The Psalms

Scripture Reading

Gospel Canticle (for Morning or for Evening)

Intercessions (one of the three sets)

Our Father

Concluding Prayer

Pray one of the following psalms on the days indicated. You may also wish to say all four psalms interspersed throughout each day.

Opening Prayer

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.

Psalm 148 - Sundays

Praise and honour, glory and power for ever to him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb (Revelation 5:13).

Praise the Lord from the heavens,
praise him in the heights.
Praise him, all his angels,
praise him, all his host.
Praise him, sun and moon,
praise him, shining stars.
Praise him, highest heavens
and the waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord.
He commanded: they were made.
He fixed them for ever,
gave a law which shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth,
sea creatures and all oceans,
fire and hail, snow and mist,
stormy winds that obey his word;
all mountains and hills,
all fruit trees and cedars,
beasts, wild and tame,
reptiles and birds on the wing.

Let them praise the name of the Lord for he alone is exalted.
The splendour of his name
reaches beyond heaven and earth.
He exalts the strength of his people.
He is the praise of all his saints,

of the sons of Israel,
of the people to whom he comes close.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

Psalm 34 - Mondays & Thursdays

You have tasted the sweetness of the Lord (1 Peter 2:3).

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free.

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress.
The angel of the Lord is encamped
around those who revere him, to rescue them.
Taste and see that the Lord is good.
He is happy who seeks refuge in him.

Revere the Lord, you his saints.
They lack nothing, those who revere him.

Strong lions suffer want and go hungry
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it
was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without
end. Amen.

Psalm 119:145-152 - Tuesdays & Saturdays

Loving God means keeping his commandments (1 John 5:3).

I call with all my heart; Lord, hear me,
I will keep your commands.
I call upon you, save me and I will do your will.
I rise before dawn and cry for help, I hope in your word.

My eyes watch through the night
to ponder your promise.
In your love hear my voice, O Lord;
give me life by your decrees.

Those who harm me unjustly draw near:
they are far from your law.
But you, O Lord, are close: your commands are truth.
Long have I known that your will is established for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it
was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without
end. Amen.

Psalm 51 - Wednesdays & Fridays

*Your inmost being must be renewed,
and you must put on the new man (Ephesians 4:23-24).*

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.
My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done.

That you may be justified when you give sentence and be
without reproach when you judge.
O see, in guilt I was born,
a sinner was I conceived.
Indeed you love truth in the heart;
then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom.
O purify me, then I shall be clean;
O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear rejoicing and gladness,
that the bones you have crushed may revive.
From my sins turn away your face
and blot out all my guilt.
A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,
that I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return to you.

O rescue me, God, my helper,
and my tongue shall ring out your goodness.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

For in sacrifice you take no delight,
burnt offering from me you would refuse,
my sacrifice, a contrite spirit.
A humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn.
In your goodness, show saviour to Zion:
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
Then you will be pleased with lawful sacrifice, holocausts
offered on your altar.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it
was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without
end. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Sundays - Revelation 7:10,12

Salvation is from our God, who is seated on the throne, and
from the Lamb! Praise and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving and
honour, power and might, to our God forever and ever. Amen!

Mondays - 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

Praised be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of
mercies, and the God of all consolation! He comforts us in all
our afflictions and thus enables us to comfort those who are in
trouble, with the same consolation we have received from him.

As we have shared much in the suffering of Christ, so through Christ do we share abundantly in his consolation.

Tuesdays - Ezekiel 37:12b-14

Thus says the Lord God: O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and have you rise from them, O my people! I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon your land; thus you shall know that I am the Lord. I have promised, and I will do it, says the Lord.

Wednesdays - Ephesians 2:19-20

You are strangers and aliens no longer. No, you are fellow citizens of the saints and members of the household of God. You form a building which rises on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the capstone. Through him the whole structure is fitted together and takes shape as a holy temple in the Lord; in him you are being built into this temple, to become a dwelling place for God in the Spirit.

Thursdays - Ephesians 4:11-13

Christ gave apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers in roles of service for the faithful to build up the body of Christ, till we become one in faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, and form that perfect man who is Christ come to full stature.

Fridays - 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

We are bound to thank God for you always, beloved brothers and sisters in the Lord, because you are the first fruits of those whom God has chosen for salvation, in holiness of spirit and

fidelity to truth. He called you through our preaching of the good news so that you might achieve the glory of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Saturdays - 1 Peter 1:3-5

Praised be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, he who in his great mercy gave us new birth; a birth unto hope which draws its life from the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead; a birth to an imperishable inheritance, incapable of fading or defilement, which is kept in heaven for you who are guarded with God's power through faith; a birth to a salvation which stands ready to be revealed in the last days.

GOSPEL CANTICLE — Mornings

Canticle of Zechariah, Luke 1:68-79

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;
he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty saviour,
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would
save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called
the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
to give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it
was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without
end. Amen.

GOSPEL CANTICLE — Evenings

Canticle of Mary, Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour
for he has looked with saviour on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it
was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without
end. Amen.

INTERCESSIONS *(each day, choose one of the following sets)*

Intercessions 1 -

For Pope Francis, with Joseph Anthony our Bishop, and all
Bishops, that they might have the grace to listen humbly and
speak boldly as the Church gathers in synod. *(pause for silent
prayer)* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That the Church, convoked in Synod, will be open and
responsive to the movement of the Spirit. *(pause for silent
prayer)* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Church as we
undertake this synodal journey. *(pause for silent prayer)* **Lord,
hear our prayer.**

That the Holy Spirit may fill the hearts and minds of all the
faithful, and accompany us on this synodal journey. *(pause for
silent prayer)* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the Church, gathered in Synod: that by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit this journey will be marked by humble listening, courageous speech, and lively hope. *(longer pause for your own intentions)* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessions 2 -

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. (pause for silent prayer) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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. *(pause for silent prayer)* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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. *(pause for silent prayer)* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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. *(pause for silent prayer)* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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 of the Eucharist in the communion of the People of God. *(longer pause for your own intentions)* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessions 3 -

For the 2023 Synod of Bishops: that we, the People of God, may grow in communion, participation, and mission as we engage more fully in journeying together. *(pause for silent prayer)* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the Church, the People of God: that the current Synod on Synodality will encourage each of us to share our voice and walk together in faith. *(pause for silent prayer)* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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. *(pause for silent prayer)* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For authentic 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. *(pause for silent prayer)* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For each of us and those we encounter in our Synodal effort: that the Mercy of God may lead us to look upon each other with compassion, humility, and forgiveness. *(longer pause for your own intentions)* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We gather our prayers together as we say:

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. Amen.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord, we become with you
companions on the journey
called to be the proclamation of the Gospel
all together, each one according to their vocation.

Send us your Holy Spirit
to kindle in us the courage
to let everybody participate
embracing the differences
and respecting our dignity
of being Children of the Father,
brothers and sisters among us.

May this walking together be a time and a space
in which each one of us put forth
the gifts received from You,
to build a synodal style that remains,
gives us identity and seals in fire our way of living.

Open our hearts and the doors of your Church
so that young people may find in this time
a home that is welcoming
and companions on the journey
who go out to meet them and walk with them. Amen.



The synod continues until October next year, so please keep using this prayer leaflet. You can access the full Prayer of the Church online at universalis.com or ibreviary.com leaflet. The Holy See has a prayer site for the Synod at prayforthesynod.va

***This booklet has been created and produced by the
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