

30TH JAN 2022

First Communion Preparation

'Do this in Memory Mass on Sunday 30th Jan at 10.00am for First Communion boys/girls and their families.

Tuesday 1st Feb St. Brigid: A Patron of Ireland

Wednesday 2nd Feb: Presentation of the Lord (Candlemass)

Candles will be blessed at Mass. (Candles should be handed in to the sacristy in advance

Thursday 3rd Feb: St. Blaise

Blessing of throats at Mass (adhering to Covid-19 limitations)

Friday 6th Feb : First Friday

Holy Communion will be brought to the sick and housebound of the Parish. Let us know if you wish a priest to visit. 091 582884

Claddagh Dominican Choir

Following the lifting of restrictions, the choir is resuming activities. Further information at Priory Office 091 582884

Synod

Following the announcement of Pope Francis of a universal synod of the Church, preparations are now taking place to begin the process of discernment in the diocese and in the Parish in the near future.

See the website of the Irish Bishops :www.catholicbishops.ie for full information.

Beginning to journey together

Synodal Pathway

There is much talk in the Church about being on a synodal pathway but what does that mean? A synod is a gathering, and a pathway implies a journey. This means that we are going to be journeying together for a significant length of time, in fact it means that this way of doing things is going to become a permanent way of being in the Church. Right now, we are only at the start, so we are in the learning phase. We are learning how to listen well so that we might truly understand each other, we are learning how to rely on the Spirit more than on ourselves, and we are especially learning how to dialogue so that everyone's voice is heard. We are doing this in phases and stages and right now we are in what is called the 'Local Phase' which is leading us towards 2023 when there will be a Universal Synod. This stage also includes initial listening and consultation here in Ireland that will set us up and help prepare for our own National Synodal gathering or gatherings in about five years' time.

What has happened so far in the Local Phase?

Our Local phase began when the Bishops of Ireland invited people to respond to how we might walk together better in the Irish Church. There were five hundred responders to this phase, all full of passion about the way ahead and the importance of listening to those on the margins. This then led to the setting up of a National Task Group who support the local delegates for the Dioceses of Ireland to reach out, to listen well and to share well. Every Diocese in Ireland is engaging in gatherings, either in person or on zoom, and finding their own ways to hear what is in people's hearts, taking account of the individual culture in each place, and also placing particular attention on the importance of enabling people to share freely and openly in a dialogue of trust. It is important to note that Pope Francis has encouraged such openness and freedom to speak using the term *Parrhesia*, which means speaking freely from the heart in charity.

There is also a Steering Committee of the Bishops Conference tasked with guiding the whole process and steering us all in the right direction.

(This is part of an article re Synod: Patricia Carroll, Member of the Synodal Task Group and Director of Mission and Ministry in the Archdiocese of Dublin.)

Further details available on website of Irish Bishops. www.catholicbishops.ie