

LITURGICAL OPENING OF THE UNIVERSAL SYNOD

In these days, the Catholic Church throughout the world and in Ireland is beginning a series of conversations about what God wants of his people at this time. These conversations are often referred to as a Synod. “Synod” comes from a Greek word which roughly means “walking together”.

On Sunday 17th October we mark the opening of the Universal Synod entitled, *For a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission*. This Universal Synod coincides with the start of the two-year Synodal Pathway for the Catholic Church in Ireland which will lead, in time, to a National Synodal Assembly in Ireland.

We pray that the next two years will be a time of prayer, listening and discernment, involving a nationwide consultative conversation on this theme. This will allow all people - both within the Church and in Irish society at large, to share their insights into the Church in Ireland – past, present and future – so that we can prepare for a National Synodal Assembly in the coming years.

Dioceses can insert their own arrangements for 17th October here and any information on a plan that may already be in place for their diocese.

www.catholicbishops.ie/synod - to learn more about the Synodal Pathway for the Catholic Church in Ireland

www.synod.va – to learn more about the Universal Synod