



Week 3 – Celebrate

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Celebrate

*A time for prayer and silent meditation –
you may wish to light a candle.*



For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

*“The Synod offers us the opportunity
to become a listening Church,
to break out of our routine
and pause from our pastoral concerns
in order to stop and listen.”*

Pope Francis

Opening Prayer –

Lord we pray,
May our synodal preparations inspire people
to dream about the church we are called to be,
to make hopes flourish,
stimulate trust,
to bind up wounds,
to weave new and deeper relationships,
to learn from one another,
to build bridges,
to enlighten minds
and restore strength to our hands for our common mission.
We trust in your Spirit who journeys with us.
Amen.

Readings – Philippians 4: 4-7

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord;
I repeat, what I want is your happiness.
Let your tolerance be evident to everyone; the Lord is very near.
There is no need to worry;
but if there is anything you need, pray for it,
asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving,
and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand,
will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

Psalm 42(41):5-6

These things will I remember as I pour out my soul:
how I would lead the rejoicing crowd into the house of God,
amid cries of gladness and thanksgiving, the throng wild with joy.
Why are you cast down, my soul, why groan within me?
Hope in God; I will praise him still, my saviour and my God.

Reflection – By Bishop Mark O’Toole

The Lord walks with us!
How often we forget this fundamental truth of being a disciple.
The Lord does not stand aloof;
 He is completely present to us.
 He is open to encounter.
Nothing leaves Jesus indifferent;
 everything is of concern to him.
Encountering faces, meeting eyes, sharing each person’s history;
 that is the closeness that Jesus embodies.
He knows that someone’s life can be changed by a single encounter.
Jesus did not hurry along or keep looking at his watch to get things over.
He was always at the service of the person he was with,
 listening to what he or she had to say.
We too are called to take time to encounter the Lord and one another.

*Leaving Jericho,
Bartimaeus
son of Timaeus,
a blind beggar,
was sitting by
the roadside.
Jesus stood still
and said,
“Call him here.”
Mark 10:46, 49*

Themes for Reflection

As before, if you are doing this reflection with others, try to listen actively and without judgment. Do not enter into debate but rather search for what the Holy Spirit might be saying through the other person; pay attention not only to the words but also to the tone and feelings of the speaker; and listen actively to yourself, mindful of your own thoughts and feelings as you speak. Whether alone or with others, always pause before saying anything, asking that the Holy Spirit might guide you.

Celebrate Questions –

1. How do I celebrate the presence of God in His Word?
 How do I celebrate the presence of God in His Sacraments?
 How do I celebrate the presence of God in my neighbour?
2. How does our liturgical celebrations influence my most important decisions?
3. Is our parish ‘celebration’ of Mass experienced as a celebration?
4. How do prayer and liturgical celebrations
 inspire our growth as a Parish community?
5. How does our Parish celebrations bring us together
 to be companions with one another on our journey of faith?
6. Do you see our Church as a celebrating Church that rejoices at God’s presence?
 Do others outside of the Church see the Church as a celebrating Church?
7. How could the Church promote everyone’s active participation in our celebrations?
8. How could the universal Church celebrate all its members?

You are very welcome, indeed encouraged to share your answers with the parish. All responses will be anonymised, and they will not be judged, but taken and shared with the diocese. E-mail to ElkValleyRC@gmail.com with the heading “Synod”