



# Synod Newsletter No. 3

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022



## Introduction

Next week, as a Parish we embark on our Synodal journey, travelling together prayerfully and joyfully to discern how the Holy Spirit is calling us to be the Church for the third millennium.

## Online discussion groups

Our online discussion groups begin next Monday, using Zoom. There are three groups available:

- 7:30pm on Mondays (10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> January), led by Neil Whitmore
- 7:30pm on Thursdays (13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> January), led by Jonathan Inns & John Mortimer
- 2:00pm on Fridays (14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> January), led by Pia Matthews

The weekly sessions will last about 1½ hours. If you would like to sign up for one of these groups, please complete the form you will find here: <https://forms.gle/EBncx9x6J7XgYb8q7>.

If you would prefer to organise your own group, you will find resources to help your discussions within the Synod section of the parish website.

## Communion

The focus for this first week is communion. We will think about who makes up our parish community.

Questions we will ask ourselves include:

- ◆ What barriers prevent people becoming fully involved in our parish life?
- ◆ Who is on the periphery of our parish and why?
- ◆ How well do we communicate with each other?

The Covid pandemic is an important part of the context for this Synod, so two other interesting questions to think about might be:

- ◆ How will we encourage everyone to return to

church as the pandemic eases?

- ◆ How can we engage with those for whom the experience of Covid has prompted thoughts about faith?

This communion topic is broken down into three subtopics: journeying companions, listening and speaking out. For each, we ponder a number of questions, always asking ourselves how the Holy Spirit is prompting us to renew the Church.

## The Synodal logo

The logo for the Synod was designed by the French artist Isabelle de Senilhes. Every detail in it has been carefully thought about. In this newsletter, I will explain some of the features of the people shown.

They represent a pilgrim Church on the move. There is a diversity of people, in communion with each other. Recall that the word ‘Synod’ means

‘journeying together’ - that is exactly what they are doing!

Notice that there is no hierarchy. The bishop is in the middle, with young people leading the way. As Jesus said: ‘I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned and revealed them to little

children.’ We have a lot to learn from children, which is why it is so important that they are involved in the Synodal process.

Finally, the bright colours signify the joy and enthusiasm with which the People of God set out on their journey.

## Contact us

If you have any comments, suggestions or questions about the Synod, please talk to Fr Bill, Fr Stephen or Chris Donovan ([synod@st-josephs-epsom.org.uk](mailto:synod@st-josephs-epsom.org.uk)).

