

Closing Prayer

Take a minute to quietly reflect on all you have heard at the meeting.

Lord, we thank for the insights you have given us during this meeting. May we ponder them in our hearts in the days and weeks to come. Bless the people who have shared with us.

Synod Prayer:

(said together)

Loving Father,
be with us as we seek new ways
of being your people in our Diocese.
May each new day bring us
closer to your son Jesus,
as we follow his teaching and
become disciples of love.

As we continue our Synodal journey, draw us closer to each other.
May the truth of your Spirit enlighten us.
Open our hearts, as we listen to each other and reach out in love
to your people.
Stay with us, Lord, on our journey.
Amen.

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Pray for Us.
St Joseph, Pray for Us.**



DIocese of  Salford
SYNOD 2023-2025

OPENING PRAYER

Opening Hymn

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us.
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us.
Melt us, mould us, fill us, use us.
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us.

Scripture

Gospel of St John 14:15 -17, 25-26

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth. If anyone loves me, they will keep my word and my Father will love them, and we shall come to them and make our home with them. I have said these things while still with you, but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom my Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said.

Pause to reflect quietly.

Reflection

The Synodal Path: is Communion, Participation, and Mission.

Pope Francis said: “Celebrating a Synod means walking the same road, walking together. Let us look at Jesus. First Jesus encounters a rich young man on the road. Jesus is, completely present to the person, open to encounter. He listens with his heart to what the person has to say.

How good is the hearing of our heart?

Encounter and listening are not ends in themselves, leaving everything as it was before. Jesus calls us to empty ourselves, including, our inward looking and worn-out models, of care for others.

To ask ourselves what is it that God wants to say to us in this time?
What is “the direction in which he wants to lead us?”

Let us have a good journey together, encounter, listen, discern. Even as we seek the Lord, he always comes with his love to meet us first”.
(Opening of the Synodal Path St Peter’s Basilica 10th Oct 2021)

Pause to reflect quietly on the words of Pope Francis.



Response: Unite us, Lord in your Spirit.

Lord as we prepare to begin our meeting, we recall your promise to be present when two or three are gathered in your name. We know that without you here among us, and within each one of us, we will labour in vain.

Response: Unite us, Lord in your Spirit.

We rejoice that we are called together to work in your name. Inspire us with your Spirit of wisdom, plant seeds of your vision within our hearts and minds.

Give us humour and humility in our working with one another, so that we may know the privilege of participating in the coming of your Kingdom.

Response: Unite us, Lord in your Spirit.

We ask that working together will increase the communion among us and give us new courage in all that we do for you. Grant us the willingness to be open to each other, to respect and listen, to be honest and supportive of each other for the sake of your Kingdom.

Response: Unite us, Lord in your Spirit.

Pause to reflect quietly.

Let us pray:

Lord may the true business of this meeting be our spiritual transformation, and the transformation of others through us and not simply the accomplishment of tasks. We ask this of you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(Adapted from a prayer by Edward Hays. Prayers for the Servants of God.)