



# Synod 2023

NEWSLETTER



Issue Three: Sunday, October 15, 2023

## At Mass for Synod members, cardinal highlights issues Christians must act on

Cardinal Béchara Boutros Raï, Maronite Patriarch of Antioch, delivered the homily at daily Mass for Synod members last Monday, and urged Christians to imbibe a synodal way of living to confront the many issues that face our world.

Patriarch Youssef Absi, Greek Melkite Patriarch of Antioch, presided over the Byzantine rite Mass in St Peter's Basilica in Rome.

In his homily, Cardinal Raï said that Jesus felt compassion for the crowd which was following Him and so told His disciples: "The harvest is abundant but the labourers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out labourers for his harvest."

The patriarch reflected on the abundant harvest as a symbol of various pressing global issues that require attention and action from the Church and all Christians. These issues, he said, include the pursuit of just peace amid ongoing wars, addressing climate change and protecting the environment,

challenging exploitative economic systems, aiding persecuted individuals, and healing the wounds inflicted by various forms of abuse.

The cardinal said the harvest includes the need to promote human dignity, foster ecumenical and interfaith dialogue, care for the marginalised and vulnerable, and engage with contemporary societal challenges. In conclusion, he invited Christians to feel compassion, as Jesus did, for our world's situations of suffering and for the conditions in which people find themselves.

### ADSUMUS – PAIDIR DON SPIORAD NAOMH

Seasaimid i Do láthairse, a Spioraid Naoimh,  
agus sinn ag teacht le chéile i D'ainm.  
Agus Tusa amháin mar threoraí againn  
socraigh Tú féin síos inár gcroíthe;  
Múin dúinn an tslí a chaithfimid dul  
agus conas is féidir linn leanúint di.  
Táimid lag agus claonta chun peaca;  
ná lig dúinn ainriail a chur chun cinn.  
Ná lig don aineolas sinn a chur amú,  
ná don chlaonpháirtíocht ár ngníomhartha a mhúnlú.  
Lig dúinn teacht Ort inár n-aontacht  
chun go dtrialfaimid le chéile chun na beatha síoraí  
gan dul ar strae ó bhealach na fírinne ná ón gceart.  
Iarraimid é seo uile Ort,  
Tusa a bhíonn ag obair de shíor agus i ngach uile áit,  
i gcomaoin an Athar agus an Mhic,  
trí shaol na saol. Amen.



Patriarch Absi, seated, listening as Cardinal Raï delivers his homily.

A resource from the Dublin Diocesan Synodal Steering Committee

## Focus turns to mission and communion

On Monday, October 9, the Synod began discussing Section B of the Working Document of the Synod, the *Instrumentum Laboris* (which can be found via the diocesan website at [www.dublindiocese.ie/synod2023](http://www.dublindiocese.ie/synod2023)).

Two points from the document were discussed. They were Section B1, “A communion that radiates” with the enquiry “how can we be more fully a sign and instrument of union with God and unity of the human race?”, and Section B2, “Co-responsible for the mission” with the inquiry “how to share tasks and gifts in the service of the Gospel?”

Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich said: “The Triune God has created humanity, each human being; and this God, who is love, loves the whole of creation, every single creature and every human being in a special way. Each one’s own personal history, and the multiplicity of our human experiences, gathered in a synodal way, helps us to better understand the questions that Section B1 of the *Instrumentum Laboris* raises, and to try to find answers.”

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## The process under way:



Voices from the Synod

## Rome assembly told: Respect is required for genuine listening

Siu Wai Vanessa Cheng, pictured, a lay Catholic from Hong Kong, spoke to the Synod about her experience of synodality and culture.



She said: “The synodal process begins with genuine listening, but there is no listening if there is no cultural, religious, social, economic and political awareness of the locality. For Asians, the most important underlying principle that favours ‘listening’ is respect, so a respectful attitude is necessary as we listen and dialogue, discern and decide. We need to pay more attention to those who are silent for some reason. It is very important that experiences of joy and wounds should be taken seriously.”

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