



Catholic Parish of Christchurch South

15th October—28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Who is at the Synod? – Part 3 [14-15 Oct]



One interesting feature of the attendance at this Synod of Bishops, is that, of the 464 attendees, 70 are not bishops, and 54 of them are women. 365 of the participants will have voting rights, with the balance made up of theologians, facilitators and spiritual assistants who are attending to support participants and run the synodal process.

Participants were proposed by Bishops' Conferences from six continents, before being approved by Pope Francis, who personally selected 120 delegates.

Of the 15 delegates from our Oceania region, three are from New Zealand: Archbishop Paul Martin sm of Wellington; Mr Manuel Beazley, Vicar for Maori in the Auckland Diocese, and Fr Dennis Narcorda, a parish priest from Levin. While it is disappointing that no NZ women were selected from those nominated by our Bishops' conference, there are six women from Australia and the Pacific in the Oceania contingent.

In 2021 Pope Francis appointed Sr Nathalie Becquart XMCJ as an under-Secretary to the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops, the first time a woman has ever been appointed to this position; the first woman with voting rights in the Synod of Bishops.

While only 21% of attendees at the synod are non-bishops, it is important to note that the material being discussed at the synod - *The Instrumentum Laboris* – expresses the concerns and hopes of thousands of Catholics from around the world who took up the invitation to add their voices to the synodal process over the last two years. It is even possible to identify in this document some of the issues raised in the groups that gathered here in Christchurch South!!

So since their three-day retreat last week, the 465 participants have been meeting each day in small groups for a 'conversation in the spirit'; listening to one another, sharing their reflections on the questions expressed in the *Instrumentum Laboris*, discerning what the Spirit of God is calling them to. Anyone who has seen images of these 'circuli minores', groups of 10-11 men and women, bishops, priests, religious and lay, gathered around tables, deep in reflective listening, cannot help but be struck by the visual contrast with synods and councils of the past, with their rows of bishops in tiered seating, all facing the front, listening to one speaker.

One of the key questions being discussed this week is 'How can we be more fully a sign and instrument of union with God and of the unity of all humanity?' Speaking at a press conference on Tuesday, US Cardinal Joseph Tobin shared how rich the conversation was in his group, which included a religious sister from Colombia, a young woman from Russia, a mother from Ukraine, a Pentecostal pastor from Ghana, a theologian from Malaysia, and a coordinator from Singapore.

But of course the most important participant of all, the 'protagonist' is the Holy Spirit. The whole purpose of the synod and all the conversations and preparation leading up to it, have been directed at listening for and discerning the will of God for the Church for our times.

Let's pray that there is enough space, silence, hope and wisdom, for the voice of the Spirit to be heard and welcomed among the people of God gathered in Rome for this synod.

Joanne and Fr Peter

Next week in Part 4 we will discuss the topics that are being discussed at the Synod

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Parish Website
Christchurchsouth.org.nz



Parish App
The Catholic Parish of
Christchurch South



<https://www.facebook.com/CatholicChchSouth/>

READINGS (Year A) Isa 25:6-10; Phil 4:12-14, 19-20; Matthew 22:1-14

Response: *I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.*

Next Week: Isa 45: 1, 4-6; 1 Thess 1:1-5; Matthew 22:15-21

These are also on the Parish App under **Readings**.



PARISH NOTICES

COLUMBAN CALENDARS: Columban calendars are now available from the office for \$15.00. Cash only please.



THE SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL: thanks all those who donated blankets, after our last appeal. The clothing bin, situated at Sts Peter and St Paul church, Halswell, remains for any further donations. Thank you.

VOCATION & DISCERNMENT RETREAT FOR MEN: A retreat is being held from **3rd-5th November** at Sister Eveleen House in Sumner for men who are open to the possibility of a vocation to the Priesthood or Religious Life. The retreat will explore various aspects of discernment and prayer and will include talks, prayer, Mass, Adoration and more.



It begins at 7pm on the Friday and concludes on the Sunday after lunch. Places are limited. Please contact the Vocations Coordinator, Matt O'Connell, for more details and to register on 366 9869 or by email: moconnell@cdoc.nz.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING - FR JOHN REA SM: Lamb of God Community are delighted to bring two healing meetings on Saturday **4th November**, 7.30-9.30pm and Sunday **5th November**, 2-4pm at the Lamb of God Centre, 21 Thames Street. All are welcome. Enquiries to John Murray, 021 280 4516 or lambogodchristchurch@gmail.com

HOMESTAYS REQUIRED FOR CULTURAL STUDENTS: Canterbury College is looking for families to host a 15 or 16 year old student from Japan for three weeks starting from the 28th of November. Text your email address to 0211815678 or email info@cancan.com for an information brochure if you are interested.

OCDS CARMELITE SILENT RETREAT: "ADVENT WITH CARMEL" **24th-26th November**—Father Michael Therese, CSJ, will lead our upcoming Retreat at Rochester Hall, Ilam. Cost: Live-in \$240, day only \$120. If you would like to join us, please contact Megan Emery ph 383 0706 or Email: benedictus@windowslive.com

ST PETER'S SCHOOL QUIZ NIGHT: Friday 27 October, 7.30pm. Tickets are available from: <https://events.humanitix.com/st-peter-s-school-quiz-night-2023-through-the-decades>

ST. LOUIS-MARIE DE MONTFORT'S: 33-Day Preparation for Total Consecration to Jesus Through Mary. An opportunity to gather *every Saturday* for those interested in following St. Louis-Marie de Montfort's 33-day preparation for total consecration to Jesus through Mary on **Friday, the 8th of December**, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. During each Saturday, Monica Lee will provide some reflection on the vital role of Mary in our spiritual life. Monica Lee is a consecrated virgin for the Catholic Diocese of Christchurch. She has completed a diploma in catechetics through the University of Notre Dame and is now working towards a Master of Arts in Theology through the Franciscan University of Steubenville. **Cost:** no cost. **Date and Time:** **9.45am – 11.15am, every Saturday** from the 28th of October until the **2nd of December**. The 28th of October is an information session. **Venue:** Sacred Heart Church, Addington (70 Spencer Street, Addington). **RSVP or for any enquiries please contact Alex Chia, achia@cdoc.nz.**



Weekly Collections 8 October
Parish \$2,103 Clergy Fund \$1,051

Automatic Payments September
Parish \$11,054 Clergy \$5,526

Next Special Collection:
Mission Sunday 29th October

Parish account for donations
Westpac 03-1592-0207148-20 Thank You

Mass Intentions: Filipino Tamala, Shona Sullivan, Fred Tahifisi S Tinielu, Souls of Manuel Sr, Lance Manuel, Artura Sr, Georgia, Louis, L Austine, Franklin Delos Reyes, Creo, Felipe, Monina and others, Patricia Stone

Please Pray for Recently Deceased:
Patricia Murphy, Michael Burns, Lilly Cooke (mother of Eddie Cook), Christopher Jenner



Catholic Parish of Christchurch South: Mass Times

Addington - Sacred Heart

70 Spencer Street

Monday	6.00pm
Wednesday	9.00am
Friday	9.00am
Saturday	9.00am
Saturday Vigil	5.00pm
Sunday	10.30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Sacred Heart:

Saturday 10.30am–11.30am
or by appointment with a Priest

Exposition at Sacred Heart

Friday 9.30am until 10.30am
Saturday 9.30am until 11.30am

Beckenham - St Peter's

11 Fisher Avenue

Sunday	9.00am
Thursday	11.00am*

(*School Term only)

Carmel Monastery

52 Halswell Road

Daily 8.30am

Halswell - Sts Peter & Paul

56 Nicholls Road

Thursday	9.00am
Saturday Vigil	6.00pm
Sunday	9.00am
Sunday	10.30am

Baptisms 2nd Sunday of the month.

Contact the Parish Office on 338 8395

Primary Schools

Our Lady of Assumption
Ph 338 9503,
www.ola.school.nz/Home/

Sacred Heart, Ph 338 3247,
www.sacredheartchch.school.nz

St Peter's, Ph 332 7598,
www.saintpeters.school.nz



The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. Psalm 23