

Journeying Together

Prayer Pilgrimage towards the First Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, Rome, October 2023



Universal Prayer Petitions

The petitions are offered for use in liturgies, or for group or personal prayer. Please one or two petitions for use in your daily weekday or weekend Masses or Liturgies of the Word. Please feel free to adapt for local use.

Option 1

For the Catholic Church as we prepare for the First Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in October in Rome: that the Resurrection of Christ will bring new life to our Church and enable us to be a joyful, hope-filled, servant community. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

For Pope Francis and the leaders leading our Church to the Synod of 2023: that they remain faithful to the Gospel and tradition, and eager to make Jesus Christ known and loved in the world today. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

For our parish communities: that we may be missionaries in our families and within our local community bearing fruit by our faithful witness to the Risen Lord and his Good News. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

For the Synod Members who will assemble from Oceania for the First Assembly: that their hearts and minds are opened to receive the Holy Spirit as they pray and discern God's will for his Church. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

For the Dioceses and Parishes of Australia, currently engaged in local synodal processes; that they will be open and responsive to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our time. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

For our parishes and schools: that we continue to become communities of life and transformation, missionary and evangelising. *(Pause for silent prayer)* Lord, hear us.

For our Dioceses, Religious Institutions and Catholic Agencies: that we deepen our commitment to the mission of Jesus Christ which brings life and light to the world. *(Pause for silent prayer)* Lord, hear us.

For our nation: that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit may help us to be more compassionate towards our neighbour with special care for those who are poor, marginalised and vulnerable. *(Pause for silent prayer)* Lord, hear us.

For our Church; that as we reflect on the future of the Church in Australia and immerse ourselves in the synodal journey, we follow the example of Mary, remembering her trust that the Spirit of God would be with her. *(Pause for silent prayer)* Lord, hear us.

For those participating in the Synod: that they might be given more profound faith, greater courage, deeper spirituality and the ability to discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us. *(Pause for silent prayer)* Lord, hear us.

For Australia and all its peoples, especially our First Nations brothers and sisters; that we may commit whole-heartedly to walking with them as we continue the journey of understanding, reconciliation and peace. *(Pause for silent prayer)* Lord, hear us.

For the First Nations People in Australia: we give thanks for their rich spiritual and cultural traditions and their care for country. May we support them by playing our part in closing the gap, fostering understanding and committing to the journey of reconciliation with them. *(Pause for silent prayer)* Lord, hear us.

For our community as we share in the Eucharist: may we acknowledge those from other cultures, backgrounds and abilities, so that in becoming a more Christ-centred and missionary Church, our prayers and action may shine on the world like bright stars. *(Pause for silent prayer)* Lord, hear us.

For ourselves, like Jesus the Good Shepherd, we will strive to be a humble, healing and merciful community, accompanying others and serving them with joy. *(Pause for silent prayer)* Lord, hear us.

Option Two

For ourselves and all the members of the Church throughout the world: that this Synodal journey may lead us ever deeper into the **communion** of the Church, foster our **participation** in it, and equip us to go out on **mission** to spread the Good News of the Gospel.

In hope we pray:

Come, Lord Jesus.

For the Church as she journeys towards the Oceania Synod of Bishops 2021-2024: that our walking together as authentic companions in Christ will bear fruit in new ways of being at the service of one another.

In peace, we pray:

Come, Lord Jesus.

For a spirituality of journeying together: that we may be formed as disciples of Christ, as families, as communities, and as human beings, through our experience of this Synodal journey.

In hope we pray:

Come, Lord Jesus.

For a listening ear and a generous heart: that as a Synodal Church walking with each other, our hearts and minds be open to listening to the voice of God and to each other without prejudice.

In faith we pray:

Come, Lord Jesus.

For a Church that celebrates: that our Synodal journey together in the coming months will be based on listening together to the Word of God and the celebration of the Eucharist.

In joyful hope, we pray

Come, Lord Jesus.

For the unity of Christians: that dialogue between Christians of different denominations, united by one Baptism, may radiate with new brightness on this Synodal journey.

In peace, we pray

Come, Lord Jesus

For our governments and community leaders: that they be inspired to lead through their committed service, be advocates for truth and justice and show compassion and understanding, especially for the most vulnerable members of our society.

In peace, we pray:

Come, Lord Jesus.

“Enlarge the space of your tent”

(Is 54:2)

