

How to be a Synodal Church in Mission

Towards the Second Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, October 2024



Reflection for the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B), 6 October, 2024

Readings

Ist Reading: Genesis 2:18-24
They were two in one flesh.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 127
May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

2nd Reading: Hebrews 2:9-11
He who sanctifies, and those who are sanctified have one origin.

Gospel Acclamation: 1 John 4:12
If we love one another, God will live in us in perfect love.

Gospel: Mark 10:2-12
What God has joined together, no one must divide.

Reflection

The readings for the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time challenge us to recognise where our hearts have been hardened and how following the countercultural example of Jesus is what leads to real transformation. When positions are tightly held and entrenched, light cannot break through to illuminate a different path forward. A hardened heart and a closed mind are not open to listening, dialogue and gradual, healthy development in understandings. The Synod calls us all to be open to the dynamic movement of the Spirit, realised in daily, practical and life-giving ways.

Relationships of mutuality and dignity are foundational, not optional, in God's Kingdom. Each of us is invited to open our hearts to love and life that renews, often in and through unexpected insights and people. Being open and listening with the ear of our heart is central to this ongoing process of conversion to truth. In the biblical text, the heart is seen as the centre of understanding, determining behaviour. Both women and men are called to be part of this process of heart-centred discernment and to share in the rich blessings, as the psalmist sings, all the days of their lives.

As we continue our synodal journey, we pray for hearts open to the new life that the Spirit generously offers in every time and place to those who walk in God's ways.

Reflection written by Fiona Dyball