

October 2023

The Month of the Holy Rosary

The Next Stage of the Synod Process, in Rome

Parish Visitation by Bishop David Evans at St Chad's Cathedral

Dear Parishioners and friends of St Chad's Cathedral,

This month of October this year has much to offer us, and I invite you to reflect on the various reasons to give us hope and to strengthen our faith.

It is the month of the Holy Rosary and I invite you to consider what part the Rosary as a prayer plays a part in your life. It can be helpful to attach a prayer intention to your praying of the Rosary. You may find the following link helpful: <https://www.usccb.org/how-to-pray-the-rosary>

The Synod Process moves to a very important stage. This is a Process that began some two year ago, when Pope Francis wished to extend the scope of the Synod Process. It has been established since the Second Vatican Council in the mid 1960s and has traditionally involved a gathering of bishops from across the world to discuss a topic of interest to the universal Church. Some of the topics that have been covered over the years are: the Word of God; the Eucharist; the Family; Youth and Vocation Discernment; Priestly Formation; Religious Life.

For more information on this: https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/synod/index.htm.

As parishes across the world, and then at Diocesan level, and then at National Level were given an opportunity to feed into the Synod Process, it is already more identifiable to ordinary people than it has ever been. So, during the month of October, let us pray especially for those who are gathered in Rome from all over the world, but particularly those representing the Church in England and Wales. A full list of the participants for this Synod can be found here. You might like to see who is representing your country: <https://www.synod.va/en/news/the-participants-of-the-16th-general-assembly-of-the-synod-of-bishops.html>.

Please accompany the Synod Process at this important stage with prayer. The prayer that has been part of the process so far, a prayer to the Holy Spirit is found here in many different languages: <https://www.synod.va/en/resources/the-adsumus-prayer.html>

In the Cathedral Parish, on the weekend of Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd October, we welcome our Auxiliary Bishop, David Evans, to lead us in a Parish Visitation. This is part of the oversight of the Archdiocese exercised by Archbishop Bernard Longley and those who work with him. Every Parish in the Archdiocese is visited in this more formal way once every 6-8 years and our Deanery (Cathedral and South Birmingham) is being visited over a 2 year period.

We pray for Bishop David Evans in his ministry as Bishop, and for Archbishop Bernard.



A Personal Reflection in preparation for our Parish Visitation (21/22 October)

Let us pray that our Parish Visitation will be a time of grace for us all as we reflect on what it means for us to belong to the Parish of St Chad's Cathedral, the Deanery of Central and South Birmingham. It might help you to prepare and make the most of the opportunity by reflecting on some of the following questions:

How long have you been coming to St Chad's Cathedral?

Do you come on your own or as part of a family or group of friends?

Do you always sit in the same place? Is there a reason for that?

Do you feel welcome at the Cathedral?

If so, what makes you feel welcome?

If you do not feel welcome, how could we improve?

Do you find the Cathedral a place where you can pray before and after Mass?

Have you ever taken part in anything beyond Sunday Mass?

- a) Meet & Greet – first Sunday of the month in the Grimshaw Room
- b) Parish Zoom meetings on the Synod etc
- c) Weekend of Faith and Culture
- d) Good Friday Walk of Witness / Corpus Christi Sunday Procession
- e) Involvement in the life of our primary school (governor / listening to readers)

Do you attend any other Churches in the city centre or in your neighbourhood?

If so, think about what makes each church / parish different.

Have you ever considered bringing somebody to Mass with you / inviting them?

Do you know somebody that might like to come with you, but you have not had the courage to ask?

What do you like about coming to the Cathedral?

What would you like to see here that you might have experienced elsewhere?

What do you do in the parish at the moment? What might you like to offer to do in the future?

Bishop David Evans would really like to hear the answers to some of these reflections when he comes to the Cathedral Parish. Please be generous in sharing your thoughts with him.

