

VATSALYA

Mother of God Church, Palle

Sunday 31st October 2021



The Official Logo of the Synod 2021-23



For a synodal Church

communion | participation | mission

1. A large, majestic tree, full of wisdom and light, reaches for the sky. A sign of deep vitality and hope which expresses the cross of Christ. It carries the Eucharist, which shines like the sun. The horizontal branches, opened like hands or wings, suggest, at the same time, the Holy Spirit.
2. The people of God are not static: they are on the move, in direct reference to the etymology of the word synod, which means "walking together". The people are united by the same common dynamic that this Tree of Life breathes into them, from which they begin their walk.
3. Quite naturally, children and then adolescents open their walk, in reference to these words of Jesus in the Gospel: " I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned and revealed them to little children". (Mt 11:25)
4. The horizontal baseline: "For a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission" runs from left to right in the direction of this march, underlining and strengthening it, to end with the title "Synod 2021 - 2023", the high point that synthesizes the whole.

What is Synod?

Synod (Gk) = Walking Together, To “Walk Together”, we need to let ourselves be educated and transformed.

- it is an ancient and venerable word.
 - Christians were called “The Way” (Acts 9:2; 14.22) as Jesus is the Way!
 - St. John Chrysostom says, “Church and Synod are synonymous.”
 - All the Baptized participates in Christ's Priestly, Prophetic, and Kingly functions.
- Recent Synods after Vat.II. A Consultative Body for the Pope.

The Purpose of the Synod...

1. To be witnesses of God's love
2. To live as a participatory and an inclusive process in the church, especially listening and hearing those at periphery.
3. To recognise the wealth and variety of gifts in the Church.
4. To explore participatory ways of living the mission.
5. To examine the responsibility and power in the Church
6. To help the church as credible partner towards dialogue (faiths & other Christians), fraternity, inclusion, participation and fraternity for a better world.
7. To Value Minority Reports not just principle of convergence or majority in the consultation process.
8. To experience a new way of being church, walking together, the synodal way.



The Purpose of this Synod is not to produce more documents. Rather, it is intended to inspire people to dream about the church we are called to be, to make people's hopes flourish, to stimulate trust, to bind up wounds, to weave new and deeper relationships, to learn from one another, to build bridges, to enlighten minds, warm hearts, and to restore strength to our hands for Our Common Mission.

The Fundamental Question that guides this consultation of the People of God is How is the Journeying Together happening today in your particular church (Parish / Community /Family)? What steps does the Holy Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our Journeying Together

Synod Session for Parish Phase

A Session in a Zone

Synodal Church : Communion, Participation and Mission

Opening Hymn: *Spirit of the Living God or Any Hymn of the Holy Spirit*

Scripture Reading: Acts 10: 23-47 or Luke 24: 13-35

Prayer for Synod:

Logo: *(Display the Logo and ask which aspect struck them)*

Synod: *(Importance and Theme)*

- Synod comes from Greek meaning Walking Together.
- This Synod is a Process and not a Product.
- Synod is a Spiritual Process that aims at Renewal.
- This Process involves Encounter, Listening and Discerning.
- One has to encounter one another and the Holy Spirit.
- The Theme of this Synod is *For a Synodal Church: (Communion, Participation and Mission)*.
- 2021-2023 Synod is different from the earlier Synod because the Process begins at the Diocesan Phase.

Questions for Sharing: Today we have gathered not to discuss but for a consultation through the sharing of our experiences. Hence all speak freely and openly. The Fundamental Question that guides this consultation of the People of God is *How is the Journeying Together happening today in your particular church (Parish/Community/Family)? What steps does the Holy Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our Journeying Together?*

Keeping in mind this Fundamental Question as a background one could share on any of the following thematic nuclei. While sharing on the Journeying Together ask yourselves what joys did they provoke, what difficulties and obstacles have they encountered, what wounds have they brought to light and what insights have they elicited?

1. For a Synodal Church:

- Who is the Church?
- How can the people formed in the Church for Synodality?
- What is our relationship with the people of Other Faiths?
- How do we enhance our relationship with all Christians (*Ecumenism*)?

2. Listening and Speaking Out:

- How & who do we listen to?
- How do we promote authentic communication?

3. Celebration:

- How does liturgy help life? What are its issues?

4. Co-Responsible in the Mission:

- *How do we share in the mission of the church?*

5. Authority, Discernment and Decision Making:

How is authority exercised in the Church (Parish/Community/Family)?

How do we discern and decide in the Church (Parish/Community/Family)?

(The Questions of the thematic nuclei could be send to the families in advance)

General Sharing: A brief report of the group sharing could be given to the Community.

Blessing: One of the Priests gives the Blessing.

Concluding Hymn: *A Hymn on Mother Mary*



The Zonal consultation will be as follows.

Thursday 4 th November	9.30 am	at the Grotto – DP Nagar Zone 1
Thursday 4 th November	6.30 pm	at the Grotto – DP Nagar Zone 2
Friday 5 th November	9.30 am	at the Grotto - DP Nagar Zone 3
Friday 5 th November	7.00 pm	at the Grotto – DP Nagar Zone 4
Thursday 4 th November	9.30 am	at the Church – Rose Nagar
Thursday 4 th November	6.30 pm	at the Church – St. Joseph Community
Friday 5 th November	9.30 am	at the Church – Mariam Park
Friday 5 th November	7.00 pm	at the Church – Naigaon Park & Roshan Park
Sunday 7 th November	10.30 am	at the Church – Amol Nagar
Sunday 7 th November	6.30 pm	at the Grotto – Mariam Nagar

Theme For Synod 2023

Communion = fellowship, love and unity as expressed in the Trinity.

Participation = including all excluding none, listening and dialoguing with an open mind, for all stages and ages.

Mission = that spreads to the entire universe, as a single family, as the identity of the Church



Prayer for the Synod

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance
lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.
Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey
together to eternal life
and not stray from
the way of truth and what is right.
All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and
time,
in the communion of the Father
and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.