

## PARISH "WALKING TOGETHER" PROGRAMME

Dear Parishioners, you may recall that before Christmas I shared with you the Archbishop's letter regarding the Pope's Synod 2021 – 2023. Synod means 'journeying together', or in Diocesan terms "**Walking Together**", and it involves listening to the Holy Spirit and to each other in order to discern the way forward. Pope Francis wants to hear from the whole Church about what is happening in local parishes and what we think we should all be doing to help make our parishes better.

The "Walking Together" process is above all a spiritual journey. We are invited to journey together as a Parish, individually and collectively to pray for the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us. "Walking Together" calls for action as a Parish, in the short term (see our Parish programme below), with our actions contributing to the work of the Synod, as it seeks to understand where we are as the Church today. This can only happen under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. There are three key concepts that shape "Walking Together":

**COMMUNION:** - What is it that binds us together as the Catholic Church of Christ and what is its purpose?

**PARTICIPATION:** - How do we engage with one another and the life of the Church in the world today?

**MISSION:** - What is our common mission and whose mission is it, how do we reach out to hand on the faith to others?

The Parish's "Walking Together" programme will begin by praying the ***Prayer for the Synod (Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus)***, see below, at all Masses during February 2022. We will also be circulating a questionnaire, based on the above key concepts, for you to consider in prayer and respond to in writing or by attending our Parish, Walking Together meeting, in the Parish Centre, on Thursday, 24.2.2022 at 7:30pm to 9:00pm. The questionnaire will be provided as a handout with the newsletter at all Masses on the weekend of 12/13.2.2022. In addition, the questionnaire and further information, on the format of our Parish meeting, will be available via the Parish website's Walking Together page ([maryandmodwen.org.uk](http://maryandmodwen.org.uk)) from Monday 7.2.2022. All responses will be collated and a Parish response sent to the Archdiocese by 28.2.2022.

### **Prayer for the Synod (Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus)**

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