

St. Nicholas News

Francis Street Parish, Dublin 8. --- 01-5157512 --- 01-5611390



5th Sunday Ordinary Time 05 February 2023

EUROPEAN SYNOD IN PRAGUE



Archbishop Eamon Martin along with 13 other delegates will attend the first ever European Assembly of a Synod within the Catholic Church. There are seven continental assemblies taking place across five continents in a new stage of the synodal process and the European Assembly is taking place in Prague in the Czech Republic from 5 to 12

February 2023. Archbishop Martin said, "This Assembly in Prague will be a further important step in the ongoing Synodal process of strengthening the Church through prayer and dialogue, and by sharing experiences, questions and hopes for the future. Those of us who will be taking part in the European assembly are conscious of our responsibility to bring the fruits of what has been shared in many gatherings across Ireland in the past fifteen months or so. We are still only at the initial stages of our Synodal journey but already important themes are emerging about the need for healing and renewal in the Church and the challenge of finding fresh ways of offering the hope that comes from our friendship with Christ and with the joy of the Gospel." In October 2021, Pope Francis launched a Synod on the theme of synodality, which was a global process with the whole People of God. The first stage of this process was a worldwide listening in each Catholic Diocese (known as the Diocesan Stage). Between October 2021 and May 2022, faith-based conversations and consultations took place across the island of Ireland and, by the 29 May, dioceses and other groups submitted their responses to the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference. Each submission was reviewed in a spirit of prayer and discernment over the weekend of Pentecost (June 2022) by members of a National Steering Committee, and the emerging themes were presented to representatives at an assembly in Athlone on 18 June. A National Synthesis from the Catholic Church in Ireland was then prepared and sent to the Synod office in Rome. At the end of October last year, the Secretariat of the Synod, published its Working Document for the Continental Stage of the Synod, which was a further synthesis of the 112 National Syntheses from the Catholic Church around the world, along with submissions from other religious congregations and groups. Entitled *Enlarge the Space of Your Tent*, this Working Document has been the subject of discernment and reflection back in each diocese around the world. Delegates from each Catholic Bishops' Conference will now take part in a Continental Assembly in order to continue the synodal process of reciprocal listening and consultation. The four delegates travelling from Ireland to attend the Continental Assembly in Prague are: Dr Nicola Brady, Chairperson of the Steering Committee Father Éamonn Fitzgibbon, Convener of the Task Group for the Irish Synodal Pathway Archbishop Eamon Martin, President of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference Ms Julieann Moran, General Secretary of the Irish Synodal Pathway A further ten delegates will attend the Assembly online.

LOVE YOUR HEART

Love Your Heart this St Valentines Day at St Andrew's Resource Centre in Rialto featuring a range of health treats, information, therapies and wellness programmes. 486 South Circular Rd. All for free! Tuesday 14th February 10am to 2pm. For more detailed information contact Mary or Janette on: 01-4530744. Romance and Good Health all rolled into one!

Remembered in Prayer

Saturday 6pm Mass

Terry Murtagh (1st A)
Dominic Dolan (25th A)
Mary Deasy (3rd A)

Sunday 11.30am Mass

Thomas Grogan (9th A)
Bridget Byrne
Gertie Kiersey (9th A)



Irish Architect Foundation

exhibition, continues until 17 Feb at the Science Gallery TCD. How do we build affordable homes and resilient communities? How fast can we deliver low carbon homes? Can we increase housing density at the edges of cities? How can we use untapped potential to solve housing problems in our towns? Can towns and cities find extra housing in iconic buildings, church sites and vacant shops? How might we optimise quality of life in a compact urban block?

The installations in this exhibition propose creative and practical answers to these and related questions about housing in Ireland today. Each piece has been developed by a team of architects and their collaborators. Proposals were selected by a Jury of national and international experts through an Open Call process. Housing Unlocked is a partnership between the Irish Architecture Foundation and The Housing Agency. The exhibition and programme are curated by the Irish Architecture Foundation. A simple idea can produce a powerful effect. We hope this exhibition will inspire action and produce a lasting legacy.

5TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

Penitential Rite

As we begin our celebration, let us remember the inclusive love of God.

For our lack of compassion and welcome.
Lord have mercy

For our willingness to exclude those who are different.
Christ have mercy

For our failure to see you in the poor and marginalised. Lord have mercy

May our great and gracious Lord, who has conquered selfishness, have mercy on us, forgive us our sin and bring us to life everlasting. Amen

Isaiah 58:7-10

Thus says the Lord: Share your bread with the hungry, and shelter the homeless poor, clothe the person you see to be naked and do not turn from your own kin. Then will your light shine like the dawn and your wound be quickly healed over. Your integrity will go before you and the glory of the Lord behind you. Cry, and the Lord will answer; call, and he will say, 'I am here.' If you do away with the yoke, the clenched fist, the wicked word, if you give your bread to the hungry, and relief to the oppressed, your light will rise in the darkness, and your shadows become like noon.

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord; anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!

Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by people. 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under

a tub; they put it on the lampstand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

Prayer of the Faithful

Father, Son and Spirit you are the God of infinite love. We praise you and thank you. Lord hear us

For all who have come to live in our country and especially those who have been forced to leave their homes because violence and war, that they may find a genuine welcome here.
Lord hear us

We pray for an end to violence and war which rob people of their dignity and their basic rights as human beings. Lord hear us

For our leaders, that they may implement policies for safe migration and just migrant working conditions. Lord hear us

We remember all who have died, and look to the day when we will be united again in the kingdom of God's love. Lord hear us

In silence we call to mind those who need our prayer and support.....Lord hear us



Reflection

Then said a rich man, "Speak to us of Giving." And he answered: You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give. For what are your possessions but things you keep and guard for fear you may need them tomorrow? There are those who give little of the much which they have - and they give it for recognition and their hidden desire makes their gifts unwholesome. And there are those who have little and give it all. These are the believers in life and the bounty of life, and their coffer is never empty. Through the hands of such as these God speaks, and from behind their eyes He smiles upon the earth.

From the Prophet, by Kahlil Gibran