

Synodality

The term synod is derived from two Greek words; *syn* ('together') and *hodos* ('way'). It means '**journey together**'. Pope Francis describes 'Synodality' as the Church's way of living and operating, journeying together as the People of God.

If we want to know what we should be doing as a Church, we need to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit who is present to all the baptised. We need to listen to one another, dialogue, pray and discern – in this way we understand how God is speaking to us all.

Synodality is 'not a parliament'. It is not a matter of canvassing participants and counting votes. In a synod, the point of discerning, not the will of the people but the will of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer of Pope Francis

Come Holy Spirit!

You inspire new tongues and place words of life on our lips:

keep us from becoming a 'museum Church',

beautiful but mute, with much past and little future.

Come among us, so that in this synodal experience

we will not lose our enthusiasm, dilute the power of prophesy,

or descend into useless and unproductive discussions.

Come, Holy Spirit of love, open our hearts to hear your voice!

Come, Holy Spirit of holiness, renew the holy and faithful People of God!

Come, Creator Spirit, renew the face of the earth!

Fr Michael McCormick's Sabbatical – Announcement

Archbishop Malcolm has given Fr. Michael McCormick, Parish Priest of Holy Family, Cronton, permission to have a sabbatical break. A sabbatical is given to priests who have served the Archdiocese for a good number of years in the Priesthood. Fr. Michael has served for 37 years. This is a time for spiritual, psychological and physical renewal. Fr. Michael will be absent from Holy Family parish from May to September.

Pastoral Care for the parish for this period, will be taken up by the priests serving in St. Wilfrid's Parish, and it is due to their kindness that Fr. Michael can have this time away. For this reason, there will be a number of changes.

1. From **Sunday 7th April** (*to establish this model*) to **28th July** the Sunday Mass at Holy Family, will change from 10am to 4pm in the afternoon. The Sunday 4pm Mass at St Bede's will be transferred to Holy Family in order to save the priests duplicating Masses and so lessen the pastoral burden of taking on an extra Sunday Mass during this time.
2. There will be no Sunday Mass at Holy Family, in August.
3. There will be no weekday Mass at Holy Family, yet all are invited to attend weekday Mass in St Wilfrid's.
4. Funerals will be transferred to St Wilfrid's.

I hope you will, in your charity, understand this adaptation. In the spirit of 'Families of Parishes' we must look to the future and support one another. We need to take seriously the fact that we don't have the same number of priests as in the past. I am grateful for the brotherly priestly support I receive from the Widnes Clergy and I ask for your cooperation and understanding in the months ahead.

God Bless,

Fr Michael McCormick Parish Priest Holy Family, Cronton, Widnes