



## **Week of focus and prayer for the Synod on Youth, Faith & Vocational discernment 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> October 2018**

“Taking care of young people is not an optional task for the Church, but an integral part of her vocation and mission in history. In just a few words, this is the specific scope of the upcoming Synod: just as our Lord Jesus Christ walked alongside the disciples of Emmaus, the Church is also urged to accompany all young people, without exception, towards the joy of love.

Instrumentum Laboris

My Dear Young People...

I am pleased to announce that in October 2018 a Synod of Bishops will take place to treat the topic: “Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment”. I wanted you to be the centre of attention, because you are in my heart.

In Krakow, at the opening of the last World Youth Day, I asked you several times: “Can we change things?” And you shouted: “yes!”. That shout came from your young and youthful hearts, which do not tolerate injustice and cannot bow to a “throwaway culture” nor give in to the globalization of indifference. Listen to the cry arising from your inner selves! God encourages you to go where He sends you: “Do not be afraid, because I am with you to deliver you” (Jer1:8).

I entrust you to Mary of Nazareth, a young person like yourselves, whom God beheld lovingly, so she might take your hand and guide you to the joy of fully and generously responding to God’s call with the words: “Here I am” (Lk 1:38).

With paternal affection,

*Franciscus*



## Monday 15th October – The Gift of Faith

God our Father, at our baptism we received the great gift of Faith and became your sons and daughters. Let this great gift which You have given us, grow in our hearts each day. Give us the grace always to live, speak and act in accord with what we profess to believe. Let us never be afraid to share our Faith with others so that we may truly be the light of the world You have called us to be. Lord, we believe, help our unbelief!

## Tuesday 16th October – The Challenge of Faith

Lord Jesus Christ, your first words were to call Your people to repentance; announcing the Good News and the coming of God's Kingdom. You call us not only to believe in our hearts, but to profess our faith in You by our words and by our actions.

You taught Your disciples the way of Faith by loving God and loving our neighbour as ourselves. Let us never grow hesitant or uncaring to the challenge of the Gospel but keep us always growing in that love in which you call us to live.



## Wednesday 17th October – The Joy of Faith

Lord Jesus Christ, You have lived our life and continue to live in the life of Your Church. You know our joys and our sorrows, You show us that true happiness comes from serving you and serving our neighbour.

When we feel anxious, or lonely, or in difficulty, help us to remember that You are with us, present in the family of Your Church. When we feel isolated or dejected help us to find our joy again through the life of Faith to which You call us.

Let us always have the courage and the care to reach out to those who need the joy, the companionship, and the love that come from trusting in You.

## Thursday 18th October – The Witness of Faith

Lord our God, you never cease to give new life to Your Church which You renew in every age. You have called each one of us to be Your witnesses to all people in all the circumstances of our life. Give us the grace and the willingness to embrace the call to be Your witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Through the authentic living of the challenges and joys of our Faith may we always be your hands and your feet, your face and your heart to all whom we encounter.

## **Friday 19th October – The Cross, Sign of Our Faith**

On the Cross, Lord Jesus Christ, you experienced pain, rejection and finally death. Yet by Your Resurrection You transformed the Cross into the symbol of the life You offer to each one of us.

Lead us to bring Your message of life and of hope to all those whom we encounter, especially to those in pain and to those who feel vulnerable and rejected. Let us experience always Your healing and transforming power so that your Church may always be, through You, the light which shines in the darkness of people's lives.

## **Saturday 20th October – Our Lady, Model of Faith**

Lord Jesus Christ, in Your Mother Mary you have given us not only the love of her who is our mother also but have given us her great example and model as we too seek to love You. Like Mary may we always be humble; accepting whatever path you place before us.

As Mary magnified you in her life and in her words so may we be always open to Your working in our lives. When we struggle to see your plan for us may Mary's prayers help us to know that You are always at work; to help us, heal us, save us and guide us.

## **Sunday 21st October – The Mass, Source and Summit of Christian Life**

Lord Jesus Christ, You continue to give Yourself to the Church and to the world, and to each one of us, in so many ways. In the Eucharist You show us Your infinite generosity and love by feeding us with Your Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity.

When we are searching for you, help us to find you in the Mass. When we are feeling lost or apathetic, stir up in us the fire of Your love. When we are seeking answers or reassurance, open our eyes to see you in the Blessed Sacrament. Finding You, knowing You, and loving You in the Eucharist may we hear and live the call to go from the Mass to announce the Good News to all Your people.

**A FUTURE  
FULL OF HOPE** and the  
Synod

The Church of Clifton  
is called to be a people  
who believe in Christ,  
who celebrate Christ,  
and who live the way of Christ.

**Parish Synod intercession:** To be included in all Masses and liturgies during October 2019

For the young people of our parish and diocese that, during this time of the Synod in Rome, they will encounter Christ through the example of others, be encouraged to share their faith as young disciples, and discern their vocation, safe in the love of God and this parish community.

# Get involved in the Synod

## Join the whole diocese in prayer during the week 15th—21st October

Bring your Parish Pastoral Council together and explore the Synod Parish resources

Explore the videos and photos on the Synod pages

Follow our diocesan reps at the Synod through daily updates and social media

Invite young people to take part in Liturgies and Masses

Hold a social event for young people and listen to what they want from the parish and their Church

Run our 'Mock Synod' for your Confirmation group (available online)

Gather a group of young people to attend our National Youth Sunday celebrations on 24th November 2018

Promote CYMFed Flame 2019 in your parish, sponsor some young people to go to the biggest Catholic Youth event in the UK at Wembley Arena on 2nd March 2019.

All details and resources available from: [www.cliftondiocese.com](http://www.cliftondiocese.com)

Prayers written by Fr Rupert Allen

Additional Images from Southwark Catholic Youth Service



Does your parish need support with Confirmation, Youth Ministry and resources?

Contact the Diocesan Coordinator of Youth Ministry:

Email: [dave.wheat@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:dave.wheat@cliftondiocese.com)

Phone: 0117 9025594

cliftonyouth



[www.cliftondiocese.com](http://www.cliftondiocese.com)