**St Mary’s Middlewich & St Margaret’s Holmes Chapel**

# Thank you for downloading this document, Please take time to reflect, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit as you answer each question.

## What is the Synod?

Pope Francis has invited the global church to a conversation about the future, and to share stories of our reality right now. We are called to dream dreams together, and he wants everyones’s voice to count. The conversations we are having now are also going on all around the world, and the entire finding will be discussed at a diocesan meeting next year, followed by a written submission by the diocese.

## SCRIPTURE FOR REFLECTION

**The Healing of Blind Bartimaeus**

*They came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.” So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.” Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.*

(Mark 10: 46-52. Taken from the NRSV translation

1. Think about the way many in the crowd speak to Bartimaeus.When have you been spoken to like this? When you might have spoken in this way?
2. Think about the way Jesus listens to Bartimaeus and asks him to speak out. What does it feel like to be listened to in this way? How can we listen to each other as Jesus did?

# QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

**Communication**: conversations lead to a new experience of Church. Q1. What does it mean to you to be Catholic?

**Participation:** the people of God talk and listen graciously to one another about questions that matter.

* 1. What are some of your experiences of the Church doing something well?
	2. What are some of your experiences of when things have not gone so well?

**Mission:** our thoughts are turned to those outside the Church walls.

* 1. What are our dreams for the Church?

Please return your completed questions to: Stmarysmiddlewichsynod@gmail.com

All returns will be included in the findings from all the parish gatherings.

**Note:** All completed questionnaires will be anonymised prior to being included in the parish feedback.

**SYNOD PRAYER**

**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.**