

Diocese of Northampton

The Cathedral Church of
Our Lady Immaculate and St Thomas of Canterbury



LITURGY of the WORD for the LAUNCH of the SYNOD

17 October 2021 3pm

AT THE BAPTISTERY

Opening Chant

Veni Sancte Spiritus
Veni Sancte Spiritus
Veni, veni Sancte Spiritus
Veni Sancte Spiritus

Sign of the cross and Greeting

Introduction

Blessing of water

Book of Blessings n.1398

O God, the creator of all things,
by water and the Holy Spirit
you have given the universe its beauty
and fashioned us in your own image.
R. Bless and purify your Church.

O Christ the Lord, from your pierced side
you gave us your sacraments
as fountains of salvation.
R. Bless and purify your Church.

O Holy Spirit, giver of life,
from the baptismal font of the Church
you have formed us into a new creation
in the waters of rebirth.
R. Bless and purify your Church.

Let this water call to mind our baptism into Christ,
who has redeemed us by his death and resurrection.
R. Amen.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Do you believe in God,
the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth? – I do

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead
and is seated at the right hand of the Father? – I do

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting? – I do

And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit
and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins, keep us by his grace,
in Christ Jesus our Lord, for eternal life. AMEN

PROCESSION THROUGH THE CHURCH

While the Bishop sprinkles us with holy water we sing

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator, come
From thy bright heavenly throne.
Come, take possession of our souls,
And make them all thine own.

Thou who art called the Paraclete
Best gift of God above,
The living spring, the living fire,
Sweet unction and true love.

Thou who art sevenfold in thy grace,
Finger of god's right hand;
His promise, teaching little ones
To speak and understand.

O guide our minds with thy blest light,
With love our hearts inflame;
And with thy strength which ne'er decays,
Confirm our mortal frame.

Far from us drive our deadly foe;
True peace unto us bring;
And through all perils lead us safe
Beneath thy sacred wing.

Through thee may we the Father know,
Through thee th' eternal Son,
And thee the spirit of them both,
Thrice-blessed Three in One.

All glory to the father be,
With his co-equal Son:
The same to thee, great Paraclete,
While endless ages run.

*When Bishop David reaches the sanctuary he honours
the statue of Mary Immaculate, patron of our diocese with incense.*

Collect Prayer

For a Council or a Synod[1]

O Lord, ruler and guardian of your Church,
pour out, we pray, upon your servants
a spirit of truth, understanding and peace,
that they may strive with all their heart to know what is pleasing to you
and then pursue it with all their strength.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the holy Spirit,
God, forever and ever. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

from the Acts of the Apostles

[2:1-11]

When Pentecost day came round, they had all met together, when suddenly there came from heaven a sound as of a violent wind which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and there appeared to them tongues as of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak different languages as the Spirit gave them power to express themselves. Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, and each one was bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely,' they said, 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; residents of Rome - Jews and proselytes alike -- Cretans and Arabs, we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

The word of the Lord - THANKS BE TO GOD

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34

R. Bless the Lord my soul!

Lord God, how great you are, clothed in majesty and glory,
How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of your riches.

You hide your face, they are dismayed; you take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord last for ever!
May the Lord rejoice in his works!
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.
I find my joy in the Lord.

from the first letter of the apostle Paul to the Corinthians [12:4-11]

There are many different gifts, but it is always the same Spirit; there are many different ways of serving, but it is always the same Lord. There are many different forms of activity, but in everybody it is the same God who is at work in them all. The particular manifestation of the Spirit granted to each one is to be used for the general good. To one is given from the Spirit the gift of utterance expressing wisdom; to another the gift of utterance expressing knowledge, in accordance with the same Spirit; to another, faith, from the same Spirit; and to another, the gifts of healing, through this one Spirit; to another, the working of miracles; to another, prophecy; to another, the power of distinguishing spirits; to one, the gift of different tongues and to another, the interpretation of tongues. But at work in all these is one and the same Spirit, distributing them at will to each individual.

The word of the Lord - THANKS BE TO GOD

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
the God who is, who was and who is to come.

Alleluia.

Gospel

The Lord be with you - AND WITH YOUR SPIRIT.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John [16:12-15]

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD

Jesus said to his disciples :

I still have many things to say to you but they would be too much for you to bear now. However, when the Spirit of truth comes he will lead you to the complete truth, since he will not be speaking of his own accord, but will say only what he has been told; and he will reveal to you the things to come. He will glorify me, since all he reveals to you will be taken from what is mine. Everything the Father has is mine; that is why I said: all he reveals to you will be taken from what is mine.

The Gospel of the Lord - PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

Letting the Word of God Resonate

The homily is followed by a time of silent prayer before we pray together:

Adsumus Sancte Spiritus prayer¹

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.

The Universal Prayer

As we await with longing the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,
dear brothers and sisters,
let us with renewed devotion beseech his mercy,
that, as he came into the world to bring the Good News to the poor
and to heal the contrite of heart,
so in our own time, also,
he may bring salvation to all in need.

1. For God's holy Church:
that it may be a light to the nations and the universal sacrament of
salvation, walking with all peoples to the Kingdom of God.
2. For Francis our Pope, David our Bishop, and the holy, faithful People of
God in the Diocese of Northampton that the celebration of this Synod
may help us to discern God's will and to boldly carry it out.

¹ Every session of the Second Vatican Council began with the prayer *Adsumus Sancte Spiritus*, the first word of the Latin original meaning, "We stand before You, Holy Spirit," which has been historically used at Councils, Synods and other Church gatherings for hundreds of years, being attributed to Saint Isidore of Seville (c. 560 - 4 April 636). As we are called to embrace this synodal path of the Synod 2021-2023, this prayer invites the Holy Spirit to operate within us so that we may be a community and a people of grace. For the Synod 2021-2023, we propose to use this simplified version, so that any group or liturgical assembly can pray more easily. For further resources see [synod.va](#)

3. For all civil and public authorities:
that they may always seek the common good,
acting with justice and integrity.
4. For the sick, the lonely, the oppressed, and the suffering:
that they may never be discarded, but rather treasured
and cared for as the face of Christ in a suffering world.
5. For ourselves, gathered here:
that this Synodal Process may lead us
ever deeper into the communion of the Church,
foster our participation in it, and equip us to go out on mission.

O God, our refuge and our strength,
hear the prayers of your Church,
for you yourself are the source of all devotion,
and grant, we pray, that what we ask in faith we may truly obtain.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen

Our Father

COMMISSIONING of the DIOCESAN SYNOD GROUP

Dear friends we ask God's blessing
on the members of our Diocesan Synod Group
who will serve our faith community
as we journey together in Communion, Participation and Mission
that God may bless them in all they do.

*Alfred Agius, Avril Baigent, Joan Barham
Sam Canning, Yoofi Clarke, Andrew Coy
Francis Higgins, Fiona Inman, Lanre Sanni , John Udris*

Almighty God
we give you thanks for the many and varied ways you build up your Church.
Bless ✠ the members of our Diocesan Synod Group.
Grant that through their vision and direction
that they may be of service to this diocese
and bring glory and honour to your name.
May your Spirit guide their activities
that they may be renewed in faith and united in love
as they work for the benefit of your people.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Blessing

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, ✠ and the Son, ✠ and the Holy ✠ Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you forever.
R. Amen.

Dismissal

Hymn

Mary Immaculate, star of the morning,
chosen before the creation began,
chosen to bring, for thy bridal adorning,
woe to the serpent and rescue to man.

Here, in an orbit of shadow and sadness
veiling thy splendour, thy course thou hast run;
now thou art throned in all glory and gladness,
crowned by the hand of thy saviour and Son.

Sinners, we honour thy sinless perfection,
fallen and weak, for thy pity we plead;
grant us the shield of thy sovereign protection,
measure thine aid by the depth of our need.

Frail is our nature, and strict our probation,
watchful the foe that would lure us to wrong,
succour our souls in the hour of temptation,
Mary immaculate tender and strong.

Bend from thy throne at the voice of our crying;
bend to this earth which thy footsteps have trod;
stretch out thine arms to us living and dying,
Mary immaculate, mother of God.

Acknowledgements

Liturgy texts – Synod Office, Vatican
Blessing of Synod Group - based on CCCB *Celebrations of Installation and Recognition* Ottawa 2005 p.313
Scripture from the New Jerusalem Bible DLT 1985
Psalm – Grail Psalter
Veni Sancte Spiritus – Chris Walker
Come Holy Ghost – Veni Creator, ascribed to Rabanus Maurus. trans. unknown.
Mary Immaculate – F W Weatherall