



1. Last week we circulated the **Archbishop's Pastoral Letter on the forthcoming Synod**, in which are all invited to take part. As was mentioned in the previous update, we have appointed two parish delegates – Dominic Jerney and Monse Cisa – who will be leading the parish's engagement with the Synodal process. Dominic and Monse have produced a short video to introduce themselves, and the Synod, which can be viewed on our website. Here is the link to the video: <https://youtu.be/bvdT5bKHnT8>. There will be various ways you can get involved in this initiative. Among other things, we will be holding two meetings – on Tuesday 9th November at 8.00 pm and on Wednesday 10th November at 10.15 am (immediately after the 9.30 Mass). These are open to all parishioners. We will also be providing the opportunity for people to engage with the process through on-line submissions. Here is a link to the on-line form: <https://forms.gle/u7jsuCwb16MBfkhG9>. Since prayer is essential to everything the Church does, we will also be praying regularly for the Synodal process – at Mass, during Eucharistic Adoration and in the Rosary. We hope to provide you with more details of all these activities during the coming weeks. In the meantime, it may be useful for us to reflect on Pope Francis' own words about the purpose of the Synod: *'what is under discussion at synodal gatherings are not the traditional truths of Christian doctrine. The Synod is concerned mainly with how teaching can be lived and applied in the changing context of our time'*. In other words, how can we best preach and live out the Gospel, in the often very challenging environment of modern-day society? This is the question we are being called to grapple with – as a parish, as a diocese and as a Church.
2. **This Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints** (transferred from Monday 1st November). The picture above reminds us of the glory of the saints in heaven, and of our calling to follow in their footsteps.
3. November is traditionally the **'month of the Holy Souls'**. We should all pray for our departed loved ones, family and friends during this month, and indeed for all the departed members of our parish community and wider circle. There are special envelopes provided in the church porch in which you can place this 'November Dead List', together with a Mass offering for the Holy Souls. Please post these in to the Parish Office, and the names will then be placed in the casket beneath the High Altar for the remainder of the month. Please do not place the names directly in the casket – it is important they go via the Parish Office first.

4. **School Admission forms.** At this time of year, we receive many school admission forms to be signed. As always Father Richard is very happy to help. However, given the very large number of forms we receive, we must ask you to follow the well-established procedure for getting your forms processed. You should drop off your forms – together with any accompanying documentation – in the post box at the Parish Office, 27 Nightingale Square. Once Father Richard has signed them, you will be contacted to collect them – we do not forward them to the schools on your behalf. If he has any questions Father Richard will contact you directly. Please note, since Mass attendance has obviously been disrupted by the pandemic, forms will be signed on the basis of Mass attendance prior to the pandemic. If you have moved to the parish in recent months, you may wish to contact your previous parish for supporting evidence. Some schools ask for a ‘Certificate of Catholic Practice’ to be signed. These must be downloaded from the internet, by the parents of the applicant, and you must fill in your own details, leaving father Richard to sign the document – the Parish Office does NOT supply these certificates. Please do not leave it to the last minute to get these forms signed! That only leads to stress (and possible disappointment) all round.
5. **Holy Ghost Primary School** shall be hosting an **OPEN DAY on Tuesday 9th November 2021 at 1.15pm**. There will be a talk led by the Headteacher, Miss Lawless, and a tour of the school by the year 6 pupils. There is no need to register to attend. Please note, the event is not suitable for young children/babies.

With prayers and best wishes,

Fr. Richard and Fr. Giovanni