



1. **Today is the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time** – readings can be found on page 129 of the Parish Mass Book.
2. We have now concluded our **parish consultation for the Synodal Process** called for by Pope Francis, leading up to the Synod of Bishops in Rome scheduled for 2023. Special thanks to Dominic Jerney and Monse Cisa, our parish delegates, for all their help in coordinating our response.
At this stage, it may be worth reflecting on how this parish consultation will feed into the Synodal Process being undertaken by the whole Church. Our feedback will be forwarded to the Archdiocese of Southwark, which in turn will feed back to the National Conference of Bishops for England and Wales. The Bishops of this country will then submit their findings along with other national conferences within Europe, and the rest of the world, and all this data will be considered by the Synod of Bishops meeting at the Vatican in 2023.
However, alongside this international process, we also need to consider the very specific feedback which concerns us here in Holy Ghost. We have heard many opinions on the best way forward for our parish, and we want to respond to this over the next few weeks and months. We will be considering the best way to do this, and will report back to you using this regular update.
Please keep the parish, the diocese and the universal Church in your prayers as we consider together the best way to live out our faith amidst the challenges and opportunities of modern society.

3. This coming weekend (22nd/23rd January) **there will be a retiring collection for the work of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC)**. SPUC's mission is to save the lives of unborn babies and to protect women from abortion. SPUC shares the belief of the Catholic Church that every new life is a wonderful gift from God, and every baby is loved and cherished by God from the first moment of their existence. Like the Catholic Church, SPUC wants to build a society which fully reflects this unconditional love that God has for every one of us.

At the present time, there are particular challenges facing those who uphold the sanctity of life. In March 2020 the government introduced 'home abortion' under the coronavirus regulations. This has led to more innocent babies losing their lives – and there are serious dangers for women too, since these drugs can lead to serious medical complications. According to an independent poll which SPUC commissioned, the majority of GPs are worried about these risks.

Another concern for SPUC is defending freedom of speech in our universities. Pro-life students at the Universities of Oxford and Exeter have experienced violent intimidation and attempts have been made to suppress their right to speak about pro-life issues.

You can support the work of SPUC in defending innocent human life and the right to freedom of speech by contributing to the retiring collection this weekend.

With our prayer and blessing,

Fr. Richard and Fr. Giovanni