



**“The best thing
for us is not
what we
consider best,
but what the
Lord wants
of us.”
St. Josephine
Bakhita**

Today’s readings celebrate all those peoples of every nation and creed who have listened to God’s word and let God’s Spirit speak in their lives. In the Gospel we hear the disciples complaining that someone, who was not one of them, was casting out devils in Jesus’ name. Jesus tell his friends that they must not stop who is doing good in his name:

“Anyone who is not against us is for us.”

Jesus is showing that his way is to be inclusive, not exclusive. He is showing his embryonic church that all are welcome. In Luke’s account, we hear a little more than in Mark’s. Luke speaks of the commissioning of the 70 who are sent out in twos to preach, to heal and to evangelise. This role is not limited to the apostles. In fact, it could be said that this is the mission of every person who follows Jesus.



Pope Francis, as Canon Alan reminded us last week, has called the Church to a special synod on synodality in 2023. This is about who we are and who we aspire to be as a Christian community. It is about listening to one another and especially to people on the margins of our society and our church.

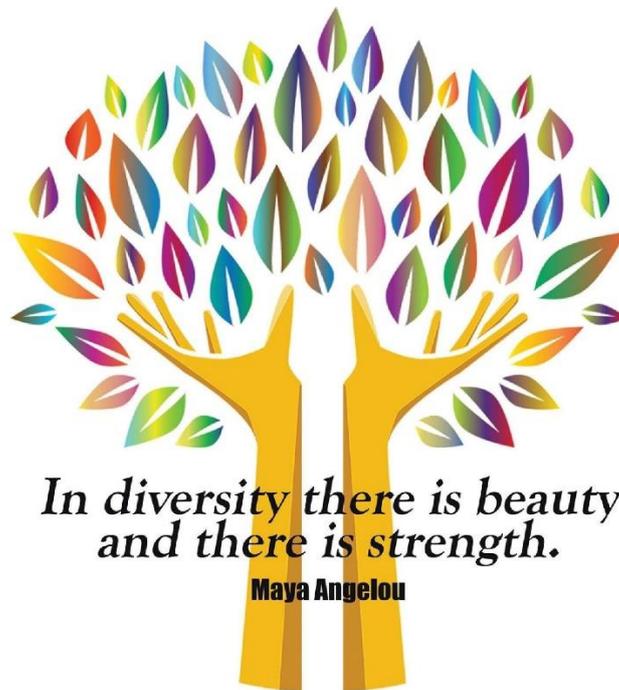
“The purpose of this synod is not to produce more documents,” said the *Vademecum (Handbook)*. “Rather, it is intended to inspire people to dream about the Church we are called to be, to make people’s hopes flourish, to stimulate trust, to bind up wounds, to weave new and deeper relationships, to learn from one another, to build bridges, to enlighten minds, warm hearts and restore strength to our hands for our common mission.”

What an opportunity we are being given to develop our mission as followers of Jesus. Every person in the Church is given the invitation.

As is said often in our parish newsletter:

Welcome
We welcome all people regardless of age, relationship status, race, disability or sexual orientation and regardless of how much or how little faith people have when they join us.
We rejoice in diversity.

So when we are invited to gather, learn from one another, heal past wounds and dream, let us do so with kind hearts, warm hearts, hearts as wide as the world.



May we walk together on the journey to the synod on synodality in simplicity, in trust and in faith. Amen.