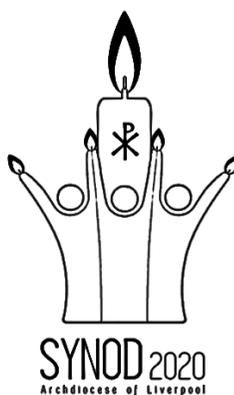


HOLY HOUR

Called and Sent:
Missionary Disciples



Opening Hymn

(Suggested hymns are available on additional sheet.)

Introduction to the theme

As we gather today, let us listen to the invitation from Pope Francis to enter into a closer relationship with Christ. “I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since “no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord”.

Evangelii Gaudium 3

Let us reflect on this challenge from Archbishop Malcolm in his October 2017 Pastoral Letter:

Focusing our gaze firmly on Christ is an excellent place to begin our own journey towards Synod 2020.

Can we glimpse something of what it might be like to hear and respond to the call of the Lord to look outwards, beyond our own concerns and needs. We need to regain our missionary spirit so that the call to holiness we heard in our baptism is expressed by a change of direction. Baptism has changed us so that as Christians we live no longer for ourselves but for others. Perhaps we can also begin to see the opportunity that Synod 2020, our 3-year journey of prayer, reflection and action, might bring us to hear and respond to the call of the Lord with open-hearted generosity and creative commitment. It is in this spirit that we can face the future with hope and confidence in Christ who is always close to those who seek to do his will.

Opening Prayer

Loving God,

you called us each by name and gave your only Son to redeem us.

In your faithfulness you sent the Holy Spirit to complete the mission of Jesus among us.

Open our hearts to Jesus

Give us the courage to speak his name to those who are close to us

and the generosity to share his love with those who are far away.

We pray that every person throughout the world be invited to know and love Jesus as Saviour and Redeemer.

May they come to know his all-surpassing love

May that love transform every element of our society

We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen!

Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 2:19-22

You are no longer aliens or foreign visitors: you are citizens like all the saints, and part of God's household. You are part of a building that has the apostles and prophets for its foundations, and Christ Jesus himself for its main cornerstone. As every structure is aligned on him, all grow into one holy temple in the Lord; and you too, in him, are being built into a house where God lives, in the Spirit.

Hymn or Responsorial Psalm

Hymn: Be still and know that I am with you **or/**

Psalm 23 – Let the Lord enter! He is the King of Glory

R *Let the Lord enter! He is the King of Glory.*

V The Lord's is the earth and its fulness,
the world and all its peoples
It is he who set it on the seas;
On the waters he made it firm.

R *Let the Lord enter! He is the King of Glory.*

V Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things.

R *Let the Lord enter! He is the King of Glory.*

V He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are those who seek him
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

R *Let the Lord enter! He is the King of Glory.*

Gospel

*A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Matthew
28:16-20*

Meanwhile the eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And look, I am with you always; yes, to the end of time."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.

Reflection

(See reflection points on additional resource sheet.)

Silence

Litany of the Evangelising Saints

(The Litany of the Evangelising Saints may be used here and is available on additional resource sheet.)

Loving Father,

You so loved the world that you sent us your only Son,
that we might believe in him and have eternal life.

May we encounter Jesus Christ anew this day
and live the Good News with joy.

Through the power of your Holy Spirit, help us to
“go out to the whole world and proclaim” our faith with
confidence.

Give us the courage to witness to the Joy of the Gospel
by our words and actions.

Help our parish to become more welcoming and
missionary,

so that you may be known and loved by all people.

We make this prayer through Our Lord Jesus Christ
Your Son,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy
Spirit,

one God for ever and ever,

Amen.

Prayerful Action

Write the names of those members of your family who do not regularly come to church – and places the names near to the altar – in this action you are bringing them with you to Jesus.

Benediction

(Benediction may take place now, if there is a Priest or Deacon, before the Blessed Sacrament is reposed.)

Closing Hymn

(After the Blessed Sacrament is reposed a final hymn is sung, suggested hymns are available on additional sheet.)