

Synod 2021—2023

FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH Communion, Participation, Mission



On 21st May 2021, Pope Francis announced the opening of the next Synod of Bishops, which will go on from October 2021 to October 2023, on the theme “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission”.

WHAT IS A SYNOD, AND WHY THIS SYNOD?

The name Synod means “Journey Together”.

In the Catholic Church the Synod of Bishops is a Council advising the Pope in governing the Church. In the Church there can be also Diocesan Synods called by a Bishop for leading his Diocese.

This Synod 2021-2023 has been called by Pope Francis, inviting all Bishops, but also priests, religious and all people of God in their Dioceses to share their reflections and contributions for the common journey of the Church in this third millennium.

THE SYNOD IN THE DIOCESE OF NYAHURURU

In our Diocese, the Bishop opened the Synod at a local level on Saturday 4th December. Soon proper instructions will be given to all Parishes on how to share in this special season and which activities to implement.

From the Guidelines for the Synod in all Dioceses

Enlightened by the Word of God and united in prayer, we will be able to discern the processes to seek God’s will and pursue the pathways to which God calls us – towards deeper communion, fuller participation, and greater openness to fulfilling our mission in the world.

‘Synod’ is an ancient and venerable word in the Tradition of the Church. It indicates the path along which the People of God walk together. It refers to the Lord Jesus, who presents Himself as ‘the way, the truth and the life’ (Jn 14,6), and to the fact that Christians, His followers, were originally called ‘followers of the Way’.

First and foremost, synodality denotes the particular style that qualifies the life and mission of the Church, expressing her nature as the People of God journeying together and gathering in assembly, summoned by the Lord Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel. Synodality ought to be expressed in the Church’s ordinary way of living and working.

The Church recognizes that synodality is an integral part of her very nature. Being a synodal Church finds expression in ecumenical councils, Synods of Bishops, diocesan Synods, and diocesan and parish councils.

In this light, the objective of the current Synod is to listen, as the entire People of God, to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church. We do so by listening together to the Word of God in Scripture and the living Tradition of the Church, and then by listening to one another, and especially to those at the margins, discerning the signs of the times.

In this sense, it is clear that the purpose of this Synod is not to produce more documents. 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.

Prayer for the Synod “ADSUMUS, SANCTE SPIRITUS”

WE STAND BEFORE YOU, HOLY SPIRIT

For the Synodal journey from 2021 to 2023, the following prayer is proposed so that any group or liturgical assembly can pray it easily.

It is a simplified version of an ancient prayer that has been used in history by Bishops during many Councils, to invoke the assistance of the Holy Spirit.

**We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.**

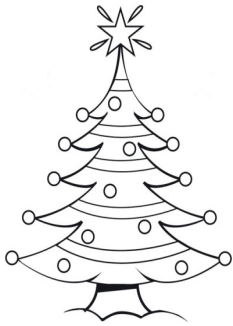
**With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.**

**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 CHRISTMAS TREE



Why do we make a Christmas Tree in Church? Is the Christmas Tree a Christian Symbol?

The Christmas Tree has been in history a Christian Symbol for celebrating the Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Its origin goes back to ancient times. Trees were used even before Christianity as symbols of

life and celebration. During the Middle Age, especially from the 14th Century, Christians would make sacred representations of the mysteries of Christ's Life. During the time of Advent, before Christmas, the sacred representations in Northern Europe used to remember the creation of the world until the salvation obtained through the coming of the Messiah and his birth. A tree was displayed to remember the tree of life planted in Eden Garden. Fruits were hung to recall the sin of disobedience by Adam and Eve. Then pieces of bread were added to remind the salvation which came through the Eucharist, the fruit coming from the new tree of life of the Cross of Christ. Furthermore, the Eucharist is the body that Jesus took in his Incarnation.

Finally, on the same tree some lights were added, to celebrate the coming of Jesus as the light winning over the darkness of the world (Joh 1). Some people used to add also roses or flowers, to remember the prophecy of Isaiah: "A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom" (Is 11:1).

Later in centuries, the fruits were changed into red objects in form of little balls, the pieces of bread into cookies or sweets or gifts, the flowers into wreaths, and the candles into lights, to form the decorations of the modern Christmas Tree. Christians started to decorate their Churches with Christmas Trees to celebrate the birth of Jesus, and to make them on the streets and in their homes.

Together with the Advent Wreath with 4 Candles (Shada la Majilio) and with the Crib, invented by St. Francis of Assisi on Christmas 1223, the Christmas Tree is one of the symbols the Christians love most to celebrate the Incarnation and Birth of the Lord.

Recently, even in Kenya, with the outspread of commercial seasons, the Christmas Tree has become a common decoration in shops and Malls, forgetting any reference of faith, at the extent that some people believe that the Christmas Tree is a pagan practice.



Better appreciate its value of faith, as we rediscover in its beauty the history of our salvation.

And... Let us make a Christmas Tree, together with a Crib, even in our Churches and in our houses, to remember in joy the coming of the Saviour!



Scout Group Ol Moran 1

SCOUT RAFFLE WINNERS

The Scout Group of our Parish organized a Raffle and made its draw on Sunday 5th December, after the Sunday Mass. The raffle was an activity for boosting the group account and support the Scout activities, but it offered also many rich prizes!

Here below we report the outcome of the draw for the first ten main prizes. Those who have not yet collected their prizes, can request for them at the Parish Pastoral Office (Mr. Francis Njenga).



Scout Raffle, Main Prizes WINNERS:

- 1. Elizabeth Kolee, Ticket N.963 → TV SET 32"
- 2. Teresiah, T.No. 210 → SHEEP
- 3. Nancy kipau, T.No. 876 → SMARTPHONE
- 4. Njoki, T.No. 736 → WALL CLOCK
- 5. Jogn Murunyo, T.No. 267 → TEA SET
- 6. Grace Wairimu, T.No. 581 → 90KGS BEANS
- 7. John Lokitoe, T.No. 656 → 90KGS MAIZE
- 8. Nicholus Erupe, T.No. 335 → HAND WATCH
- 9. Lucy Mwangi, T.No. 1308 → WOOL MAT
- 10. Esther, Magnificat, T.No.337 → ARTISTIC CROSS

For any Contribution to the Parish

LIPA NA MPESA



To: Cooperative Bank

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Paybill No.

Account No.

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601292#

(after # you can write the reason of payment)

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