



Škofija Celje  
Diocesis Celeiensis

Za sinodalno Cerkev  
občestvo | sodelovanje | poslanstvo



# A PROPOSAL FOR MAY NOVENA PRAYER BEFORE THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD 31.5.2023

Diocese of Celje, Slovenia

WHEN: every day in May / May everyday devotion or at the beginning or at the end of Holy Mass.

WHO: design and lead: lay people, priest, animators, catechists, altar servers, scouts, etc.



**Mary is the bond of communion,  
she creates closeness so that the  
broken communion can stand  
together and be able to receive  
the Holy Spirit.**

*Maksimilijan Matjaž, bishop of Celje, Slovenia*

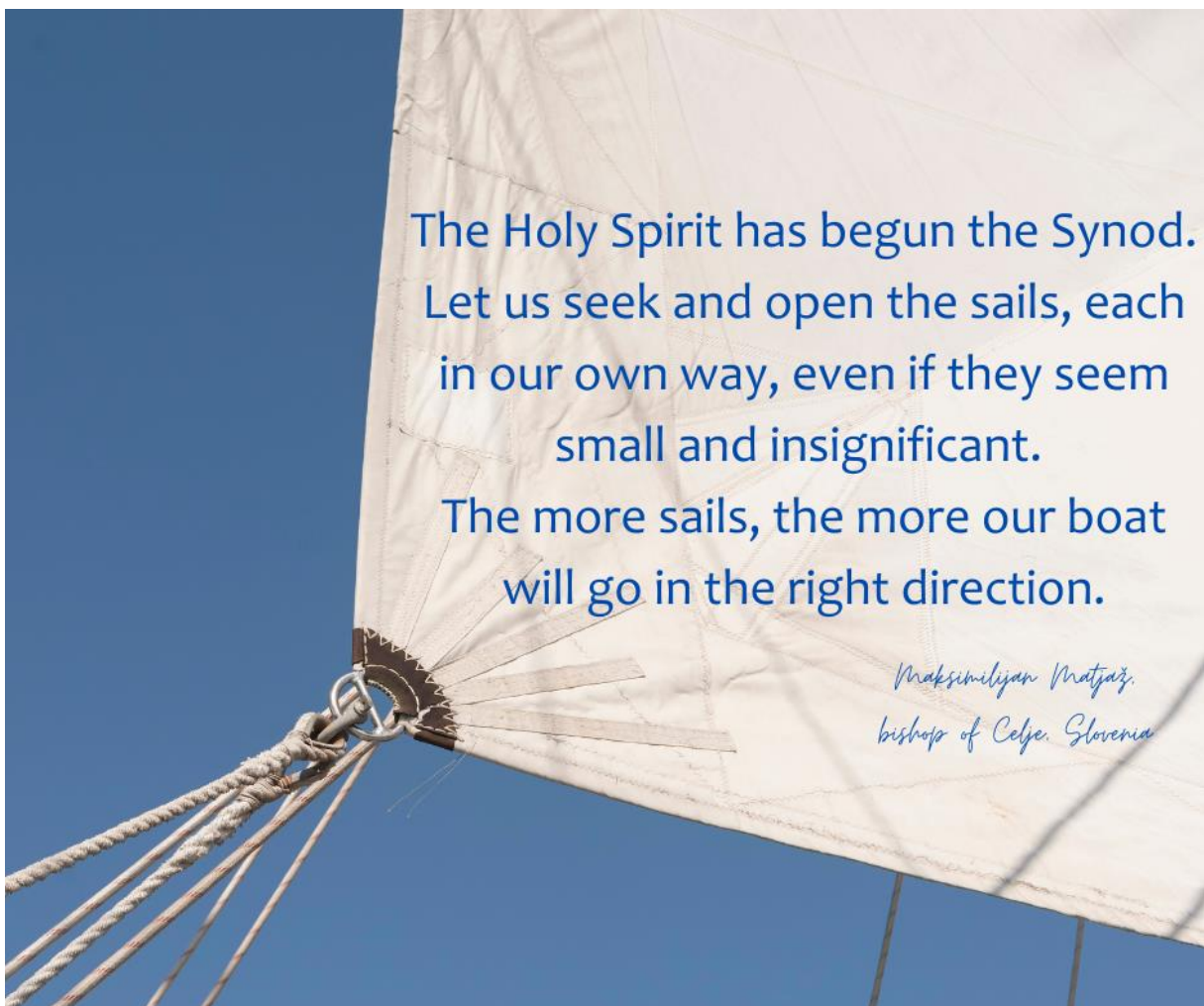




- We pray together Prayer for the Synod
- The thoughts of the day on the synodal journey and a phrase from the daily Word of God are read out, encouraging us for the synodal journey.
- We reflect on what we have read and pray in a few moments of silence.
- Together we pray the Our Father - the prayer of the Church. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Sign of the Cross (if this concludes the devotion).

Everyday thoughts are from:

- Towards the spiritual for synodality <https://www.synod.va/en/highlights/towards-a-spirituality-for-synodality.html>
- Final document of European Continental Assembly [https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/common/phases/continental-stage/final\\_document/Europa\\_IT\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/common/phases/continental-stage/final_document/Europa_IT_ENG.pdf)
- Daily Word of God





**22 May** The whole of Mary's life is a journey: the inward journey of handing herself over to God's purpose, even when she does not fully understand where it will take her, she says: »Your will be done! «

It is insufficient to only name issues; there is an urgent need for discernment to be followed up with action.

We also surrender ourselves to God, who is always with us. For Jesus says: " The hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each one to his home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me. 33 I have said this to you so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution, but take courage: I have conquered the world!" (Jn 16,32-33)

**23 May** We meet Mary on the hardest road of all: following her son into the dark night of Calvary and Golgotha.

The Church have much to offer the world but we also have much to receive from it.

And with her, many others. Each of us can recognise ourselves in the words of the Apostle Paul: "And now, as a captive to the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and persecutions are waiting for me. But I do not count my life of any value to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the good news of God's grace." (Acts 20,22-24)

**24 May** For Mary, whether the journey is inward or physical, a journey of exile or return, there is but one journey only: the journey of faith in her son, Jesus Christ, who is her and our way.

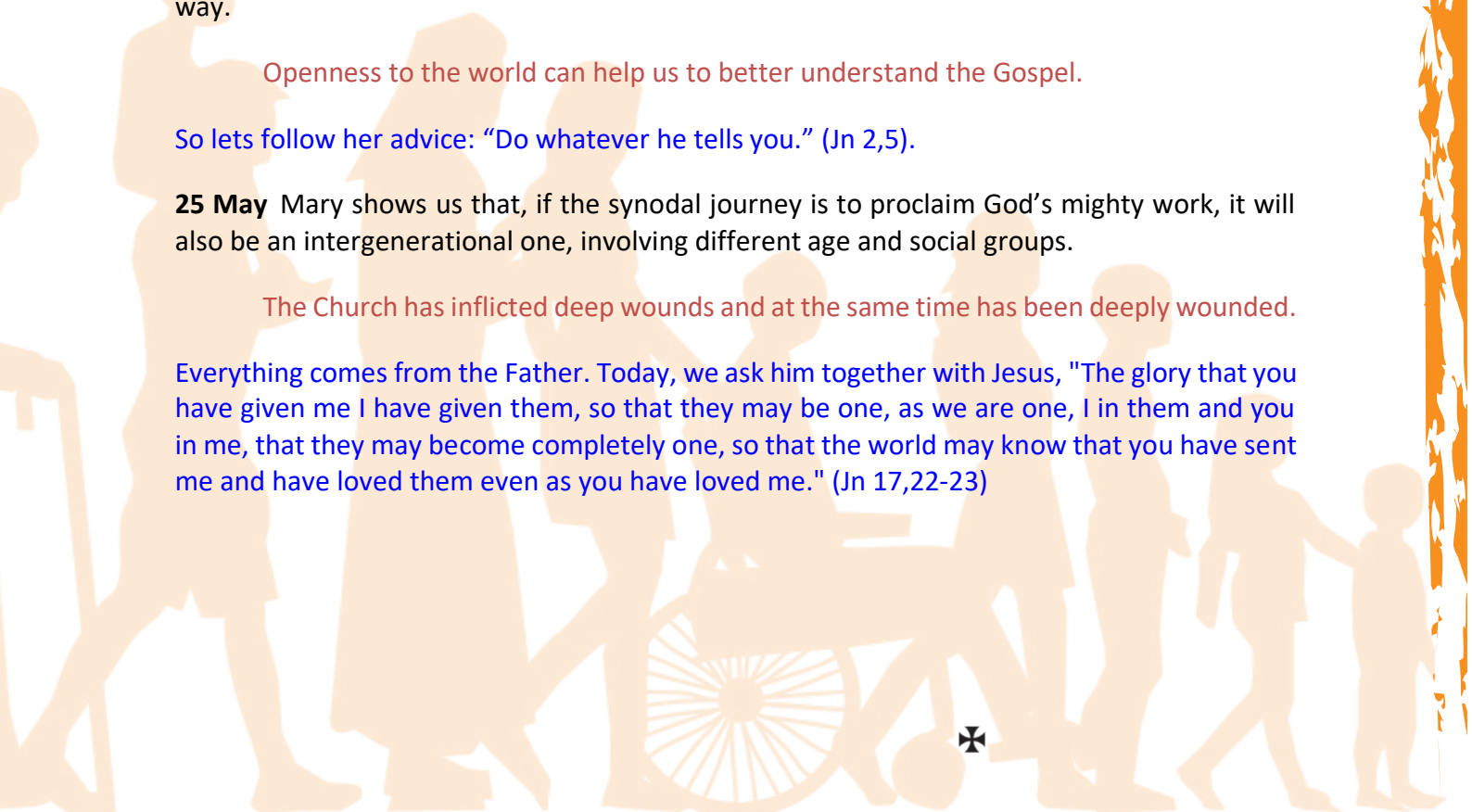
Openness to the world can help us to better understand the Gospel.

So lets follow her advice: "Do whatever he tells you." (Jn 2,5).

**25 May** Mary shows us that, if the synodal journey is to proclaim God's mighty work, it will also be an intergenerational one, involving different age and social groups.

The Church has inflicted deep wounds and at the same time has been deeply wounded.

Everything comes from the Father. Today, we ask him together with Jesus, "The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." (Jn 17,22-23)





**26 May** Mary and Elizabeth anticipate the prophetic Church. Their presence reminds it that it speaks best when it speaks from its experience of God's grace in its own life.

In Churches of Europe we are all living different sufferings and experiences but common in the love of Christ.

Let us today, together with the psalmist, cry out, " Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits." (Ps 103,1-2).

**27 May** At the foot of the cross, from her suffering son and Lord, her mission is confirmed: to be the mother of the new community born from his sacrifice.

The image of the Church as a tent and the importance of tension: without tension, the tent collapses, while too much tension damages it.

May the words of the psalmist resound in us as we behold the crucified, "The upright shall behold his face." (Ps 11,7)

**28 May** At the foot of the cross, gathered with Mary community of faithful women bound in love and friendship beyond the natural bonds of family – Let it be so in our communities, that we walk together in care for one another.

In a synodal way it is possible to live tensions without seeing them as irresolvable oppositions that crush us.

Let us listen carefully to the words of the Apostle Paul: »No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Cor 12,3-7.12-13)

**29 May** In Mary, we have an image of the *sensus fidelium*: all those in every age who, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, know Christ by love in their hearts, express his truth in their lives and unerringly remain faith-filled and faithful to him and his Church.

It is not enough to proclaim that they are welcome, but we must discover with them their place in the Church

Let us listen carefully to the words of the Apostle Paul: "Brothers and sisters, when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our[b] hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir through God. (Gal 4,4-7)



**30 May** In Mary, we learn how to travel as a synodal Church. We learn to be at home in the world and to make a home for all those who are seeking home, a place of welcome and refuge, healing and salvation, a place of reconciliation, peace and the assurance of eternal life.

*Synodality is a way to make the Church less clerical, cold and bureaucratic.*

Let us become missionaries and, together with the Apostle Peter, let us cry out, »Look, we have left everything and followed you.« (Mr 10,28)

**31 May** With Mary, Mother of the Church, we learn how to make the Church, the Body of Christ, such a place, a people of living communion, participation and mission. With her, we learn to say our 'fiat' in all the circumstances of our lives and to join in the great chorus of faith that echoes through the centuries.

*It is essential that the Church gives the Word of God all the space it deserves.*

The Apostle Paul tells us how to live as the Church today in his letter to the Romans, "Brothers and sisters, let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are." (Rom 12:9-16)

