



"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light for my path."

- Psalm 119:105

"Sacred tradition and Sacred Scripture are like a mirror in which the pilgrim Church on earth looks at God, from whom she has received everything, until she is brought finally to see Him as He is, face to face."

- cf. Dei Verbum 7



FOR MORE INFORMATION

About the "Journey to the Synod" in the Diocese of Birmingham, visit:

<http://bhmdiocese.org/synod>

For daily Scripture readings, visit:

<https://bible.usccb.org/daily-bible-reading>



DIocese OF BIRMINGHAM
2021-22 JOURNEY TO THE SYNOD

Enthroning the Word of God

A SIMPLE PRAYER PRACTICE FOR
FAMILIES AND GROUPS





BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

Pope Francis has invited all the People of God into prayer, dialogue, and discernment to prepare for the Synod of Bishops in 2023. As part of this journey together, families and groups in the Diocese of Birmingham are invited to attend to the Holy Spirit by praying through God's Word.

As a sign that the Lord is the center of life, many families and groups enthrone the Bible, the written Word of God, in a highly visible place. By prominently placing the Scriptures and by gathering in a special place for prayer, the faithful may attend to the presence and action of the Holy Spirit by listening to his Word. This prayer practice mirrors the prayer of the Synod of Bishops who place the Bible before them to remind "all the participants of the need for docility to the divine word, which is the 'word of truth' (Col. 1:5)." [EC 8]

Enthroning the Bible is easy. Simply pick a gathering place where the Bible can be honored. The Bible should be placed where it will be seen regularly, but apart from the noise and confusion of work and entertainment. Place the Bible on a table or shelf, opened to one of the recommended passages for the Synod, to a favorite selection, or to the Gospel of the day. Decorate the area around the Bible with items such as cloth, flowers, or candles—whatever is available to you and suitable for the purpose. You may use the included ritual prayer when you gather to enthrone the Bible.

As you gather for prayer in this special time of preparation for the Synod, please pray for the Holy Spirit to guide and direct Pope Francis, Bishop Raica, our clergy, and all the faithful into a deeper encounter of communion with Christ, a holy experience of participation in his Church, and a fruitful response in mission in each person's life.

RITUAL PRAYER

The ritual may start outside the main entrance to the room. One member of the family/group holds the Bible, raised slightly. A parent or group leader begins the celebration with the opening litany:

- Leader:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Word of the Father.
- Response:** Come, Lord Jesus, come.
- Leader:** You became one with us to tell of the Father's love.
- Response:** Come, Lord Jesus, come.
- Leader:** You are the light that shines in the darkness.
- Response:** Come, Lord Jesus, come.
- Leader:** You save us from fear and break the bonds of sin and death.
- Response:** Come, Lord Jesus, come.
- Leader:** You come to guide our steps and lead us to God.
- Response:** Come, Lord Jesus, come.
- Leader:** You are the Word of eternal life.
- Response:** Come, Lord Jesus, come.
- Leader:** You fill us with the Holy Spirit.
- Response:** Come, Lord Jesus, come.

As everyone enters the room, they may sing a suitable song. After the litany, the Gospel of the day may be proclaimed. During the "Journey to the Synod," it is appropriate to pray with one of the following passages:

- John 4:1-42:** Jesus dialogues with the Samaritan woman.
- John 9:** Jesus heals the man born blind
- Acts 10:** A Double Dynamic of Conversion – Peter and Cornelius
- Acts 15:1-35:** The Council of Jerusalem and the Mission to the Gentiles

After the reading, the leader places the Bible in the place prepared for it. All bow deeply before the enthroned Bible.

Leader:

We have heard your words, Jesus. They give us joy and bring light and truth into our lives. Your presence gives us peace in our troubled and divided world. Let your Word create in our hearts a deep desire for you. Be with us in our hearts and homes, in our community and country. Give us your Holy Spirit to help us to understand your Word. We enthrone now this Holy Bible in our midst. Make your Word the center of our lives. May your Word inspire all that we think and say and do. May your Word bind us together in unity with each other and with you, today and forever.

Response: Amen.

All join in saying the Lord's Prayer and follow with:

With open hearts, we promise to honor the Word of God in our midst, to read and reflect on it. May we draw from it inspiration for our decisions, strength for our work, and comfort in suffering. Jesus, help us to be faithful to your promise, you who live forever and ever. Amen.

The celebration concludes with a sign of peace.

