

10/23



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# HOPE

N e w s l e t t e r

“Joined in prayer with Mary”

(Acts 1:13)

WITH THE SYNOD

Prayers and Key Extracts

MATURING IN FAITH

Vicariate 18th Anniversary

BLESS US, O LORD

COLA International Food Fair

TO GOD WHAT BELONGS TO GOD

Parish Assembly Outcomes

PRAISE AND HONOUR

Month of Rosary

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This October, we celebrate eighteen years of the Apostolic Vicariate in Brunei Darussalam. Turning eighteen means coming of age and stepping into adulthood.

In this Marian Month of Mission, this also means we are called to renew and recommit our relationship with the Lord, by knowing Mary, hearing Mary, living like Mary.

Knowing Mary means to learn her story, her role as the Ark of the New Tabernacle, sharing in the Salvation mission of her Son and our Savior!

Hearing Mary compels us to listen and reflect on her words as recorded in the Gospel, always pointing us to be open to the Spirit and the Will of God.

Living like Mary is a human path we are all too familiar with. She learned, she listened, she took initiatives, she spoke out, she endured, she sacrificed, she prayed - both alone and in community.

Like us, she loved, she lost, she lived. The difference? She trusted and gave all to the Father! What a heart Mary has for the Lord!

What about us?

As we join the Universal Church in journeying deeper into the dialogues of the synod, we too are called to know God's purpose and direction for us, to listen more within ourselves and with each other in spiritual conversations, and to live His mission of love, peace and growth—just like Mary's example.

Let us ponder the words of the Lord in Luke 8:21, "My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice."

Shall we be His mother and brothers?

Our Lady,  
Queen of Heaven and Earth

Pray for us your children of the Apostolic Vicariate in Brunei Darussalam. Be our guiding star to lead us to your Son, to follow in your footsteps to know, hear and live like you. Amen.

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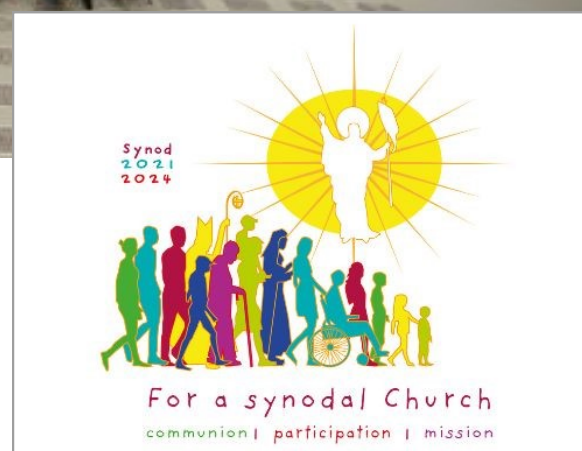


“Mission is at the heart of the Church. And even more when a Church is in Synod, this synodal dynamic alone carries its missionary vocation forward — that is, her response to Jesus’ mandate to proclaim the Gospel.”

“Our mission and the voice that draws us to him spring from him. This voice reveals to us that **the heart of mission is to reach out to everyone, to seek everyone, to welcome everyone, to involve everyone, without excluding anyone.**”

“Let us pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a style of life at every level, allowing herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the world’s peripheries.”

*Pope Francis,  
October 2023 Prayer Intention*



*The following are key extracts from the Letter of the 16th General Assembly of the Synod on Synodality which involved 450 participants invited by the Holy Father.*

*This first session was from 30 September to 25 October 2023, and will be followed by a second session in October 2024.*

*This synod marks the first time men and women have been invited, in virtue of their baptism, to sit at the same table to take part, not only in the discussions, but also in the voting process of this Assembly of the Synod of Bishops.*

“Dear sisters, dear brothers,

**A**s the proceedings of the first session of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops draw to a close, we want to thank God with all of you for the beautiful and enriching experience we have lived. We lived this blessed time in profound communion with all of you. We were supported by your prayers, bearing with you your expectations, your questions, as well as your fears. As Pope Francis requested two years ago, a long process of listening and discernment was initiated, open to all the People of God, no one being excluded, to “journey together” under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, missionary disciples engaged in the following of Jesus Christ.

Together, in the complementarity of our vocations, our charisms and our ministries, we have listened intensely to the Word of God and the experience of others. Using the conversation in the Spirit method, we have humbly shared

the wealth and poverty of our communities from every continent, seeking to discern what the Holy Spirit wants to say to the Church today.”

For the Church’s vocation is to proclaim the Gospel not by focusing on itself, but by placing itself at the service of the infinite love with which God loved the world (cf. John 3:16). When homeless people near St. Peter’s Square were asked about their expectations regarding the Church on the occasion of this synod, they replied: “Love!”. This love must always remain the ardent heart of the Church, a Trinitarian and Eucharistic love, as the Pope recalled on October 15, midway through our assembly, invoking the message of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus. It is “trust” that gives us the audacity and inner freedom that we experienced, not hesitating to freely and humbly express our convergences, differences, desires and questions.

And now? We hope that the months leading to the second session in October



2024 will allow everyone to concretely participate in the dynamism of missionary communion indicated by the word “synod”.”

“To progress in its discernment, the Church absolutely needs to listen to everyone, starting with the poorest.

It means listening to those who have been denied the right to speak in society or who feel excluded, even by the Church.”

“The Church also needs to listen to the laity, women and men, all called to holiness by virtue of their baptismal vocation: to the testimony of catechists, who in many situations are the first proclaimers of the Gospel; to the simplicity and vivacity of children, the enthusiasm of youth, to their questions, and their pleas; to the dreams, the wisdom and the memory of elderly people.

The Church needs to listen to families, to their educational concerns, to the

Christian witness they offer in today's world. She needs to welcome the voice of those who want to be involved in lay ministries and to participate in discernment and decision-making structures.”

“She also needs to be attentive to all those who do not share her faith but are seeking the truth, and in whom the Spirit...is also present and operative.

“The world in which we live, and which we are called to love and serve, even with its contradictions, demands that the Church strengthen cooperation in all areas of her mission. It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium” (Pope Francis, October 17, 2015). We do not need to be afraid to respond to this call.

Mary, Mother of the Church, the first on the journey, accompanies our pilgrimage. In joy and in sorrow, she shows us her Son and invites us to trust. And He, Jesus, is our only hope!”

Vatican City, October 25, 2023



“We have been seeing for many years an enormous mass of Catholics who don't seem to be interested in the very life of the Church, for a long time thinking that the Church must be done by priests.

The time has arrived when we all have to ask ourselves ‘**What is up to me to do?**’; and I believe that that is synodality.”

*Archbishop José Miguel Gómez Rodríguez  
Manizales, Colombia*





## MATURING IN FAITH



Vicariate 18th Anniversary in COOL  
20 October





COLA International Food Fair  
1 October



## PASCOOL MESSAGE

Dear Sisters and Brothers of COOL

A heartfelt appreciation for your time, commitment, efforts, and contribution in supporting PASCOOL 2023 event held yesterday (21-22 October).

I acknowledge the invaluable roles shared in the preparation, lively discussions, highlighted group's opinion and true dedication. Let's us pray together as we continue to fan the spirit of "Journeying Together" to foster a deeper conversion, connection and motivation amongst ourselves in strengthening the Synodal 2021-2024 theme "Communion, Participation and Mission".

Thank you again for "moments that matter". God Bless All of Us.

*Jennifer Nyanggau*  
Parish Pastoral Council Chair

## DAY 1 SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION

Summary : 5Cs of Life in Christ

Based on the Gospel reading of Jesus and the Pharisees' exchange on "Render unto Caesar", we understand God gave us everything (blessings, gift of talents and life), we should give back to him through serving the church and dedicating our time to Him. We actually did not do enough and will never do enough for God. We should be focused on God, trust in Him that He will not abandon us.

In this world, it is like we are having dual citizenship, we fulfil our earthly responsibilities but need to remember and put God in all that we do, especially in situations of "busyness". How we can do this on top of our **commitments** is by living with **character, compassion, connection and courage**.

Character and compassion means seeing and giving to God, represented in people who need our presence, love and help. Courage includes growing in the faith, standing up to defend it when required. Lastly, through this spiritual sharing, we find that we could connect with each other based on individual experiences, although from different situations but coming from the same root in **Christ**.

## DAY 2 EXTRACT : COMMUNION THAT RADIATES



**Enrich local cultures with prayers and biblical reflections to strengthen faith in communities**  
**Engage and cross- celebrate minority and migrant cultures; welcome, share and learn from each other**



## Create Women and Youth Outreach



Initiate a ministry to support women juggling family, work and faith as well as marginalized situations  
Meet young people in digital spaces and channels, bring the Good News in their language and words

## Nurture Self and Ministry Leadership



Understand callings in own languages, Recognize where and how to contribute talents, Make Peace with ourselves and others, Communicate for clarity and harmony, and Take Actions no matter how small



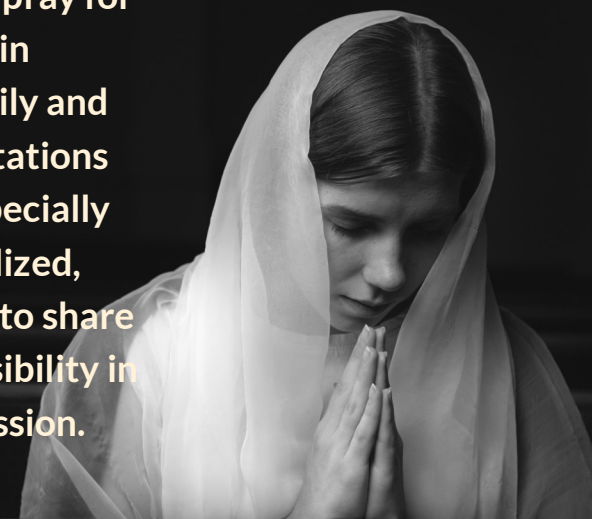
## DAY 2 PRAYERS COMPOSED BY EACH PASCOOL SYNODAL GROUP

Lord we seek help from you, to help us to understand your work and what you have set for us. Walk hand in hand with us and assist us to build, to spread and to invite the people of your kingdom to be more active to do your will. Enlighten our hearts and mind with your holy spirit, so that we can help the church and the people of the church grow into better Catholics. Amen.

Dear Abba Father, in the Spirit of Jesus, we pray for more participation and more understanding in our walking together in the mission entrusted to us, inspiring others to respond to the importance of the call of Vocation. Amen.



Dear Lord, we pray for your guidance in redefining family and societal expectations on women, especially those marginalized, allowing them to share the co-responsibility in your divine mission. Amen.

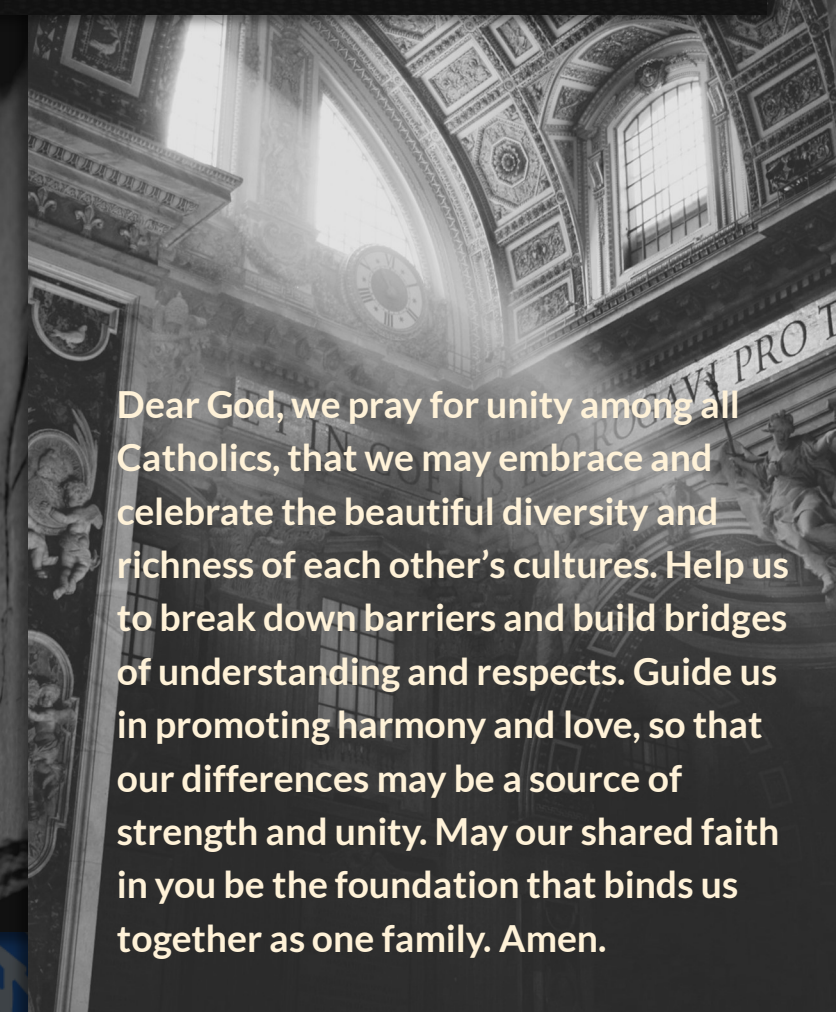


Father in heaven, we thank You for the gift of service. May we always be reminded of Your mission to love. To forgive and to love one another. We ask you to unite our society. Draw us closer to You, rebuild our faith in church and family stronger. Help us to exercise our leadership and stewardship the right way especially in making decisions wisely and align with what You want to accomplish. We ask this prayer in Your Most Holy Name. Amen.

Ya Bapa, kami berterima kasih kepadaMu kerana telah mengurniakan kami hati yang ikhlas untuk melayaniMu. Turunkanlah kuasa Roh Kudus Mu kepada kami agar kami dapat menjalani hidup yang kudus dengan rendah hati. Ya Tuhan kami juga memohon kepadaMu, gerakkanlah hati kami agar kami memelihara dan melestarikan alam dengan baik. Amin.



Dear God, we pray for unity among all Catholics, that we may embrace and celebrate the beautiful diversity and richness of each other's cultures. Help us to break down barriers and build bridges of understanding and respects. Guide us in promoting harmony and love, so that our differences may be a source of strength and unity. May our shared faith in you be the foundation that binds us together as one family. Amen.









## PRAISE AND HONOUR



Month of Rosary  
31 October



# OUR BLESSED QUEEN & MOTHER



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