



WE ARE CHURCH International

Saturday, 14 March 2026

Theme – **Synodality: “Walking-Together” Towards Communion**
(also Mothering Sunday 15 March)

Leader: Patricia M.

Welcome and Opening Reflection

At this Eucharistic Service, we also remember women all over the world – mothers, grandmothers, mothers-to-be and single women who have ‘mothered’ many children.

And in particular we pray for the women and children and men suffering in wars.

LEADER: The story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus presents elements that can help us grow in the synodal life in the Church. The two were walking together, just as Jesus told those whom he sent to preach the Kingdom, walk together two by two. However, these disciples were walking away from Jerusalem, the community of the apostles, because they had lost hope: “we were hoping that he (Jesus) would be the one to redeem Israel.” Then Jesus *walked* with them, explained the Scriptures to them and broke bread with them. And they recognised Jesus.

Listening to the Word opened their minds, the breaking of the bread restored their hope!

LAETARE (Rejoice) SUNDAY – 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT 2026

ALL ARE WELCOME SONG https://youtu.be/N9bOiAxwi4U?si=u_PIUJRTFyek-4vl

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace,
Where the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak and words are strong and true
Where all God’s children dare to seek to dream God’s reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God grace
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found in water and in wine
A banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God through Jesus is revealed in time and space
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they’ve known
here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God’s face
Let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place. (repeat)

READER 1 ASHIK K: The late Pope Francis defines synodality as "walking together"—a pastoral, collaborative style of Church life rooted in listening, dialogue, and community discernment. He emphasised active participation by all baptised members - rather than just hierarchy - to make decisions guided by the Holy Spirit. This vision, central to his pontificate, aimed for a more inclusive, humble, and missionary Church, culminating in a major, multi-year Synod on Synodality (2021–2024) and ongoing implementation through 2028.

Has the experience of church as ‘people of God’ ‘walking together’ been evident in your life since the Synod process began in 2021? **OR...**

Are the voices of the excluded – women, LGBTQ, young people - being listened to, dialogued with, discerned together in a ‘synodal’ way, calling for a church that '**shines for its authenticity**'?

READER 2 MEHWISH K: SCRIPTURE - ST PAUL’S LETTER TO THE Ephesians 5:8-14 – NIV

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in God. Live as people of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases God. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said: “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

‘Nothing great is ever achieved without much enduring’ Catherine of Siena

<https://youtu.be/Sgm9IkTNQmc?si=82CYV9L7SXgTBPSX>

RESPONSORIAL PSALM – YOU ARE MINE by David Haas

I will come to you in the silence; I will lift you from all your fears
You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice; Be still and know I am here:

I am hope for all who are hopeless; I am eyes for all who long to see
In the shadows of the night, I will be your light; Come and rest in me:
*Do not be afraid I am with you; I have called you each by name
come and follow me, I will bring you hope, I love you and you are mine.*

I am strength for all the despairing; feeling for the ones who dwell in shame,
All the blind will see; the lame will all run free; and All will know my name:
*Do not be afraid I am with you; I have called you each by name
come and follow me, I will bring you hope, I love you and you are mine.*

I am the Word that leads all to freedom, I am the peace the world cannot give
I will call your name embracing all your pain, stand up now, walk and live:
*Do not be afraid I am with you; I have called you each by name
come and follow me, I will bring you hope, I love you and you are mine. (repeat)*

READER 3 COLM H: ‘All are ONE in Christ’

Walking Together, Gathering as a community of equals.

The bringing together of the whole of humanity is Jesus’ dream. It is the mission he left us. He came to gather the scattered nations.

Jesus expressed this desire in all kinds of ways. It is the explanation for the enormous ‘picnics’ he held where thousands and thousands of people sat down to eat together. It is why he travelled out of his country, as far as his feet allowed him to go, to Samaria, the region of the ten Greek towns. It even explains his stay in Capernaum, a harbour town full of people from all kinds of nations.

That is why he said that anyone who is not in favour of gathering is not only scattering, but that person is against what we do. *“Whoever is not with me is against me, the one who does not gather with me scatters.”* (Luke 11:14-23)

LEADER: REFLECTION AND SHARING – Pause as we listen to each other.

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

LEADER: Gathered together in joyful hope, we bring our needs before God, trusting that the Holy Spirit will open our eyes to see where we can be a listening, discerning community of faith, walking together in solidarity with each other.

READER 4 NOELLA D:

1. For the people of God, that as visible signs of Christ’s light in the world, we may joyfully proclaim the truth of the Gospel, ‘that all are one’ in Christ.
Hear our prayer, O Spirit of compassion and justice.
2. For the whole human family, that we may open our eyes to the needs of our neighbours, especially the ‘other’ on the margins, those excluded from Church ministry, receiving communion, feel unwelcome or alienated from the experience of ‘companions on a journey.’
Hear our prayer, O Spirit of compassion and justice.
3. For all who work to heal the sick, welcome the stranger, alleviate suffering, seek justice for the excluded and marginalised, that they may keep hope alive as together we walk towards a more inclusive, humble, missionary church.
Hear our prayer, O Spirit of compassion and justice.
4. Gracious mother/father God, hear the prayers of your people who cry out to you in faith. Grant that rejoicing in your grace, we may walk together towards a more participatory Church, where laypeople, religious, priests, and bishops share in the responsibility of your mission by listening, dialoguing, sharing and discerning the guidance of the Holy Spirit for our time.
Hear our prayer, O Spirit of compassion and justice.
5. Holy Spirit, fill us anew. Let your power overflow in our communities so that we may be a blessing to each other. May we be inspired by those who speak out against injustice and use their voice to bring about a church that will recognise the giftedness of those who are excluded. May we never lose hope that one day we can truly say ‘all are one in Christ.’
Hear our prayer, O Spirit of compassion and justice.
6. Christians are called to bear fruit by sharing the gifts they have been given as witnesses to the Gospel. May our Church reflect that sharing in its practice so that **all the baptised** are included so as to enrich the life of the Church.
Hear our prayer, O Spirit of compassion and justice.

OFFERTORY AND EUCHARISTIC PRAYER - SHARE BREAD AND WINE.

LEADER: Jesus came to gather the family of God together around the one and the same table. It was his last act on the evening before his arrest, sharing the Passover meal with women and men disciples.

As we gather today to remember Jesus’ words *‘Do this in memory of me’* we share our bread and wine, invoking his blessing of peace for our world.

ALL: (LIFT THE BREAD) ***This is my body which is given up for you. When you break bread together, remember me.***

(Lift the cup) After supper, Jesus took the cup, blessed it and said:

All: ***Take this all of you and drink. This is my blood, the new covenant of God-with-you. When you drink from this cup, remember me.***

Holy One, we are living in difficult, perplexing and challenging times. Please give us moral courage. May we never be too busy or too frightened to stand up and speak out for justice, equality, freedom, and peace.

POST Communion:

READER 5 SOLINE H: SPIRIT OF COMPASSION AND LOVE, we celebrate our union with You, as we give thanks for this gathering of companionship, 'walking together' in friendship, solidarity and hope, praying especially for peace in our troubled world, and in particular for those who are suffering violence in war.

LET US BLESS ONE ANOTHER WITH A SIGN OF PEACE. +

LEADER: TOGETHER WE PRAY:

May the peace and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore. Amen.

SONG: We are companions on the journey – by Carey Landry

https://youtu.be/YOZV4KanpV8?si=c6A2jl-9bPxHU_rj

Refrain: We are companions on the journey, Breaking Bread and sharing life;
And in the love we bear is the hope we share, for we believe in the love of our God,
We believe in the love of our God.

No longer strangers to each other, No longer strangers in God's House;
We are fed and we are nourished by the strength of those who care,
By the strength of those who care. **Refrain: We are companions on the journey...**

We have been gifted each other, And we are called by the Word of the Lord:
To act with justice, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with our God,
To walk humbly with our God. **Refrain: We are companions on the journey...**