

# Foreword

*"If the Lord does not build the house, in vain do the builders labour."*

*(Psalm 127.)*

Dear Synod Members,

I am delighted to have this opportunity to thank you for your willingness to give your time to our Synod journey. Without your openness to the action of the Holy Spirit our Synod would not be possible.

This little book of prayers and reflections has been produced to play a part in keeping us all turning back to the Lord, time and time again, for His guidance and His help.

Prayerful listening to the Word of God and to each other, and discerning together where the Lord is calling us to change, are at the very heart of what it means to be a "synodal" Church. We travel the road together always attentive to the Lord's direction. Pope Francis has invited us all to see, not *our* way forward, but the *Lord's* way for us.

I hope that the contents of this book will be a call not only to place prayer at the centre of our gatherings to listen to each other, but also to keep us faithful to our own times of prayer when we try to allow the Holy Spirit to guide our thoughts and our decisions.

Each of us finds our own way of prayer. Not everyone can pray in the same way. I hope that the prayers provided here will inspire you to draw from other sources in our rich Christian heritage of prayer.

May God bless you in this holy task we have begun and may He keep you always attentive to His call.

+ Malcolm McMahon OP

Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP  
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