



15 June 2017

Issue No: 155

## From +John...

Dear Friends,

I have invited you to participate in the Synod consultation process which you are able to do either as individuals or in various groups. I am most grateful to those of you from around the diocese who have already sent in responses. At the heart of the process I have invited you to engage in is a deep and profound respect for one another. This respect comes from the conviction that each of us can learn from another, that each of us may be an instrument of God's Spirit.

In asking you to do this I want to tell you that I need to hear your words, spoken courageously and with humility from your hearts. I need to hear the words that have been given shape in prayer and reflection. I need to hear the words which have been prompted by the Holy Spirit and then spoken, knowing that they have come from the inspiration of God's Spirit. This is happening in the submissions which have been coming in, and it is a joy to see people speaking up so honestly and constructively.

This current phase of the Synod process is vital for us if the Synod is to bear fruit. Therefore I really encourage everyone to participate prayerfully in this discernment time, with listening ears and with listening hearts. In these weeks our spoken words, and our listening must come from quiet prayer and a genuine openness to the experiences and vision of those who share their thoughts with us. Words that have been spoken over and over again may suddenly be heard as if for the first time, they may ring with a truth we have previously missed. If we listen with our hearts, as well as with our heads, I am sure that we will come to see our mission in a whole new way. We will then step out on a new direction which God challenges us to follow as we are sent out into the world taking Jesus and His Gospel with us.

With sincere thanks for all that you are doing and with every blessing

+ John

## NEWS ...

- Please remember in prayer the **Archdiocesan Pastoral Council** who meet this coming weekend.
- We also remember in **prayer** people living in tragic circumstances. Those in London, Syria, and places of war and violence.
- All are invited to attend a Mass to celebrate **Suzanne Aubert's** birthday. Mass will be celebrated at 6pm on Monday 19 June at St Anne's Church Newtown.
- Next Tuesday 20 June, the **Jubilee Mass for Priests** will be held at St Patrick's Church in Kilbirnie at 11am. All are welcome.
- Congratulations to the **Marist Brothers** as they celebrate the Bicentenary of the Founding of the Order on 23 June.
- **Peters Penance Collection**; Sunday 2 July. This collection is an opportunity for us all to financially support the charitable and humanitarian work of Pope Francis. See your church notices for more information.

Going off script at yesterday's General Audience, Pope Francis asked the crowd what the cure is for someone with an unhappy heart.

*"What is the medicine that changes an unhappy heart?"*

*"Love!"*

*"Louder!"*

*"Love!"*

*"Very good, very good everyone"*