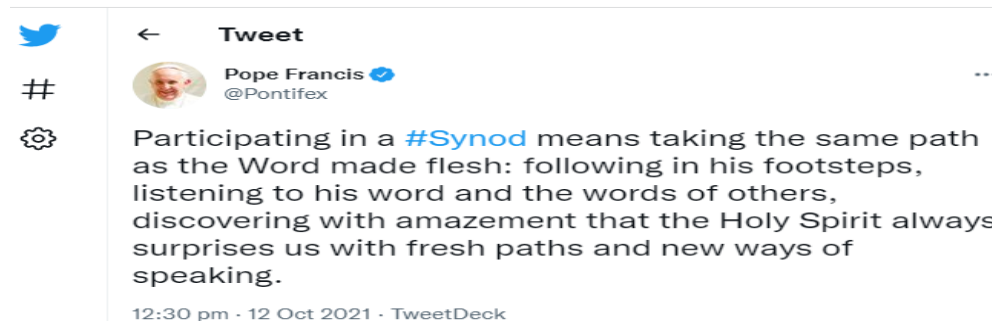




# Our Church- our responses to the Synod.





## The Future of the Church

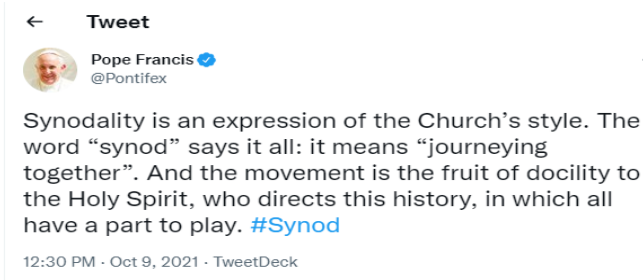


<u>Peace</u>	<u>Hope</u>	<u>Joy</u>
<p>Some people may feel left out in the Church such as sick people, the homeless, refugees, those who are lonely, grieving, in poverty, in prison who cannot attend or people who cannot come in person.</p> <p>We can reach out, listen and love these people by bringing the Church and love of God to the person because although it is the House of God, Church is everywhere.</p> <p>During lockdown people could not attend Church. However that did not stop them from attending services as people could develop it to work online. This way, nobody is left out.</p>	<p>Our dream for the Church is a safe and delightful environment where everybody is welcomed.</p> <p>We can do this easily by respecting and caring for Gods House of prayer, the Church and to share the light of God with others and not just ourselves.</p> <p>"Better to illuminate than to merely shine." - Saint Thomas Aquinas.</p>	<p>The Holy Spirit inspires us and our School as it guides us in the right direction to be a better version of ourselves. Pope Francis calls us to be the Saints of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.</p> <p>The Holy Spirit calls us to bring the joy of the Church to everyone we encounter in our daily lives.</p> <p>One major problem in our world today is climate change. To put the words into actions of what the Holy Spirit calls us to do, we can protect our environment and our beautiful world, which God created out of nothing.</p>





My dream for our School and our Church is that as a family we are accepting of everyone for who they are. Pope Francis says we should bandage peoples wounds and heal their broken hearts with the balm of God, we show them Imago Dei. My dream is for us all to take the same path and follow in Christ's footsteps.  
Esme 8I Divinity





My dream for the Church and the  
School is for everyone to be blessed and treated  
equally no matter what their race or faith.  
Brandon 8I Divinity

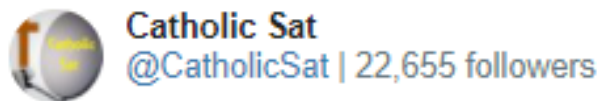


#ListeningChurch  
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#ListeningChurch





My dream for our School and our Church is to always be compassionate, we are called to wipe away the tears and sadness from peoples lives and like Veronica give a cloth of love to all those we meet and bandage their wounds. 8I Divinity



Pope Francis to faithful of Rome on the upcoming Synod of Synodality: "Prepare to be surprised and prepare for surprises"





My dream for the Church and School is keeping this as a family. We should be welcoming and not judge people. We are called to bring the virtue of Justice to the world. Pope Francis reminds us we should bandage wounds and broken hearts. We should bring compassion to those who need help and remind them how loved they are. We are called to be the Good Samaritans on a daily basis.

Dawid 8I Divinity



The Synod offers us the opportunity to become a Church of closeness, that does not stand aloof from life, but immerses herself in today's problems and needs, bandaging wounds and healing broken hearts with the balm of God. [#ListeningChurch](#)







I think that the Holy Spirit is calling us to listen and to spread the Word of God. We can do this in School by joining the Divinity Team and share our God given gifts and talents with others. St John Henry Newman reminds us that God has created each of us for some definitive service to which he has not committed to another. God calls us in different ways but it is our vocation to live it out to the full. We can do this by feeding the hungry or helping the poor. St Oscar Romero reminds us to aspire not to have more but be more. For me I can live this out through the virtue of Temperance . Material possessions are not as important as the virtues of compassion and gratitude.

Laura 8I Divinity



Pope Francis  
@Pontifex

Synodality is an expression of the Church's style. The word "synod" says it all: it means "journeying together". And the movement is the fruit of docility to the Holy Spirit, who directs this history, in which all have a part to play. [#Synod](#)

12:30 PM · Oct 9, 2021 · TweetDeck





A Church is a place where everyone is made to feel welcome. It is a vibrant, happy place where people can pray in total silence, in a room full of voices. It is a place where everyone can smile, where everyone can speak up, and where there is a shoulder to cry on and a back to manage our burdens.

If you go out of our way to include everyone, and spread happiness wherever you go, then you can guarantee that you will “never let anyone leave you without leaving happier,” as Mother Theresa said. We can spread our love continuously by smiling everyday. Our Church isn't just one building in our community that is designated for worship, it is inside us always, living through the Holy Spirit, keeping our souls alive with the glory of God. He made us for a very special purpose – “before I formed you in the womb, I knew you” – so we could be the best versions of Imago Dei who we want to be, and not be a photocopy.

Small acts of kindness may take nothing to do, but mean everything to someone. Picking up something for someone

who dropped it, holding the door for the person behind you, and smiling at someone, are just three examples of this; a minute fraction on a fathomless list. We are beacons of light in a world of darkness, so where there is shadow, be a star. We will set the world on fire so even the Sun cries its tears. We pray for all of our neighbours, the elderly, poor, homeless, lonely, or just anyone who needs a little boost, and give them the support and guidance that they need, deserve and cherish. Every single one of the people on earth are our neighbours, so follow Christ's light and always “love thy neighbour”.

Our vocation may be a doctor, author, priest or graphic designer, but no matter what, each and every one of the population has a job to do. Spreading kindness is the most beautiful job to ever do, so make it your top priority to be kind to everyone everyday. I know that it may be hard to not argue with your siblings or back-chat your parents, but just keep, in the front of your mind, that kindness is key. If you do make a mistake and say something rude,

just apologise and remember that God loves you; you are perfect and he made you that way. It takes nothing to be kind, so give not expecting to get, and be a Good Samaritan.

We can engulf the people around us with love and compassion through these simple deeds, expanding the church community. It is like a sponge, absorbing more and more joy, gaiety and benevolence. We are the free, and yours is the glory, Lord. You gave us free will to go out of our way to help others, so that's what we shall do.

We are all brothers and sisters on this journey, one giant family on the road to the Kingdom of Heaven. Pope Francis' latest encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, foreshadows the 2021 – 2023 Synod, as the encyclical states that we are all brothers and sisters in the eyes of God, and the Synod is journeying together as a family. Saint Thomas Aquinas said, “it is better to illuminate than to merely shine”, so we spread the gospel everyday, in our hearts, in our homes, in our school, in our church, and in our world. We are one of a kind, best



versions of Imago Dei, prophets of the twenty-first century, saints of the modern day, and definitely no photocopies.

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By Kara Hosmer







## My dream for the church- synod

A synod is a council of a Christian denomination, usually convened to decide an issue of doctrine, administration or application and means 'assembly' in Greek. This word can correlate to us all assembling as one big team, whether its in our school CMAT family or as one across the world, to save our brothers and sisters (Fratelli Tutti). Fratelli Tutti is the belief that we are all 'brothers and sisters', that we all become a family across the world, God's children and Jesus' disciples and that we can achieve great things by working together. "Blessed all those who love their brother as much when he is far away from him as when he is with him"

My dream for the church is to recover those who are broken and reach out to families that may not be able to reach out to us. There are many people that live in poverty, refugees who have been forced to flee from their home country because of war and many of our other brothers and sisters that need our help. We need to be the voice for the voiceless and make sure that everyone gets a chance to experience worship and mass at the church as all our welcome. My dream is to gather people that may not be able to make it to church themselves and include them in the greatness of

the church, to ensure that everyone gets a chance to speak to God and pray for those who need it.

Our vocation is to become Saints of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and follow in the footsteps of those who inspire us, whether its our neighbour next door or a saint such as Thomas Aquinas -the Patron Saint of Catholic schools and students. We need to be ambassadors of faith in order to keep our community together as one family of brothers and sisters and treat each other how we wish to be treated. "Love one another as I have loved you" -John 13:34

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## Florence Year 8





# Peace, Hope and Joy

**“Be Kind to one another,  
forgiving one another, as God,  
in Christ, forgave you.”**

Jesus has always taught us to be kind and love others, he is like the teacher of all the nations. Jesus is the guide to how we should behave on earth. As we know, God came to earth in Christ for a number of different reasons, maybe one of these could be to show us how to treat others, as equals. We are all the Children of God, made in Imago Dei.

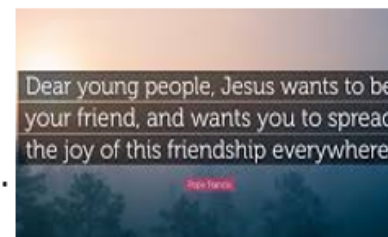
Christ has shown this when he was arrested and was to be crucified. Even though many human beings despised Jesus and punished him in very agonising ways, he still remained with dignity and did not treat them the same way back. This portrays how we should behave. We must not hurt others, despite them hurting us as Pope Francis says “Peace is the language we must speak.” This means that violence and general unkindness is not the way to become the best forms of Imago Dei and is not what God wants us to do.

Peace is the blanket,  
That canvases the World,  
With happiness and comfort,  
For all boys and girls.

Hope is the feeling,  
That carries you through,  
Hope is the future,  
For me and you.

Joy is the laugh,  
The heart pounding bliss,  
The key to God's heart,  
The heart that you cannot resist.

By Kelsie Weston 8E.





## OUR WORK ON THE SYNOD

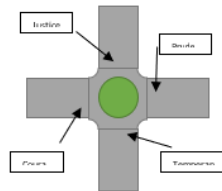
### Journey Path for Synod – Jack Mann

#### The Quad

This is an outdoor area where many people see how often the area is used, why not support Synod. There are 4 paths leading resembling the shape of the cross that from sin. We could incorporate St Thomas



go to at break and lunch. do something with it to to one centre point, Jesus died on to save us all Aquinas' 4 virtues within it. I think



that we could have a noticeable enough sign, not too big, with each virtue, its meaning, what we can do at school or out of school, and possibly the question of 'what have you done to show (one of the virtues)?'. As we know, Synod is all about supporting the church so that all generations to come have a church where they feel welcome and most

importantly, loved by God. The church is a home for all of us, but this home is about journeying together; this is literally what synod means after all.

#### Inspirational Synod Quotes

I think that we should display quotes around school that inspire us as young people to support our faith more. Realistically, quite a lot of students at St Martins do not go to Church. We are the missionary disciples of our generation and are called to spread the word of God. It is our responsibility to participate in Synod's aim to build up the church even further than it is already. We could put quotes in places like the corridors or in the canteen. Here are some examples of quotes that could be shown around our school:



All of us need a little light in our lives, some of us need more than others. We are all called to the church, no matter how young or old, weak or strong. The church needs us all, and we need the church too in our lives to become saints of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. As St Thomas Aquinas once said, 'What does it take to become a saint? Will it.' COVID has clearly affected the whole Catholic community, but not necessary all in a bad way. It has probably made us more grateful for what God has given us, and we have come to share our gifts and talents to the world even more through lockdowns. It has been a rollercoaster for everyone, and some people have been heavily impacted by it, but as the church is for everyone, it is also there for those who are struggling. Overall, Synod is to offer a place in the church for everyone so we can all experience it. Our contribution could change our lives for the better.

My dream for the church is for a feeling of welcoming when we are there as God's presence shines on our hearts. We are in a situation where I think we should not just be praying but doing something about our planet. Synod also can link to climate





### Artwork on the Synod – Max Clarke

My artwork depicts two churches one on the left that is black and white with no people in sight and one on the right, which is vibrant and overflowing with joyous, worshipping people. The one on the left shows the church as a barren, dull place as there aren't any people in it that's why pope Francis wants young people to carry on the legacy of the church for generations. We may think of saints as people from the distant past but so did some people who ended up actually becoming saints so it links back to the fact, that the small acts of kindness we do in our days really affect those we do it for as most of the saints became one for the kind deeds they did and the things they gave up for God things we can still do on

a daily basis (just maybe toned down a bit). A good example of one of these modern-day saints is a boy called Carlo Acutis who sadly died at the age of 15 in 2006 of the disease acute leukaemia. He was a kind boy who went to church often and preached the word of God to his friends however he also loved playing football and video games with his friends just like most kids nowadays. The picture on the right shows the church that pope Francis so desperately wants, this is why he set up the synod so young people can give the church tips on how they could make it even better than it already is as in just a few decades our generation will be running the church so he's making sure it's as good as it can be for them. Saint Thomas Aquinas once said 'What does it take to become a saint? Will it' this suggests that anything we put our mind to is possible even becoming a saint if we want. The Synod isn't just trying to help young people run the church in a few decades but also make it more welcoming to them now as more and more of the church community drifts towards being elderly he wants us to make it more suited to modern day so it can be enjoyed by a larger range of ages. The church is symbolically just a group of people so without the people the church the church is just a building (displayed on the left) but with the help of the community we can make something truly beautiful (displayed on the right) the aim my drawing aims to convey.







### Altar and Lectern Design – Tom Bevan

Altar, in religion, a raised structure or place that is used for sacrifice, worship, or prayer. The priest or farther stands behind it reading or talking about quotes from the bible. The altar plays a central role in the celebration of the Eucharist, which takes place at the altar on which the bread and the wine for consecration are placed. Churches generally have a single altar, although in the Western branches of Christianity, as a result of the former abandonment of concelebration of Mass, so that priests always celebrated Mass individually, larger churches have had one or more side chapels, each with its own altar. The main altar was also referred to as the "high altar".

My altar design is mostly white, as it symbolises purity and the fresh start as new people join the church and even the Catholic Christian community. The words 'peace hope and joy' are the main things the synod is aiming to get in the church so we can journey together as a family to support our desire to be more missionary and outward looking. This will give us the faith and goodness to become saints as we are missionary disciples. And, a St Martin quote on how anything can be a prayer if it were offered to God.



Lectern, originally a pedestal-based reading desk with a slanted top used for supporting liturgical books—such as Bibles, missals, and breviaries at religious services; later, a stand that supports a speaker's books and notes. A lectern (from the Latin *lectus*, past participle of *legere*, "to read"). Lecterns are in different shapes and sizes depending on the material they are made from. They are sold to churches because they are used to read out the bible.

The following lectern banner design is red for a reason. Red is the colour of fire and so symbolizes the presence of God. It is the liturgical colour for Pentecost. It is considered the colour of the Church, since red can also symbolize the blood of martyrs. The St Martin Aquinas quote – 'What does it take to become a saint. Will it.' – is there to inspire anyone who sees it. For example, on Worship Wednesday or any other time that we come together as a family to pray and reflect, everyone watching will notice the simple quote. 'Will it' implies just going out there and doing whatever we must do to be the best versions of Imago Dei.







### What is my dream for the church?

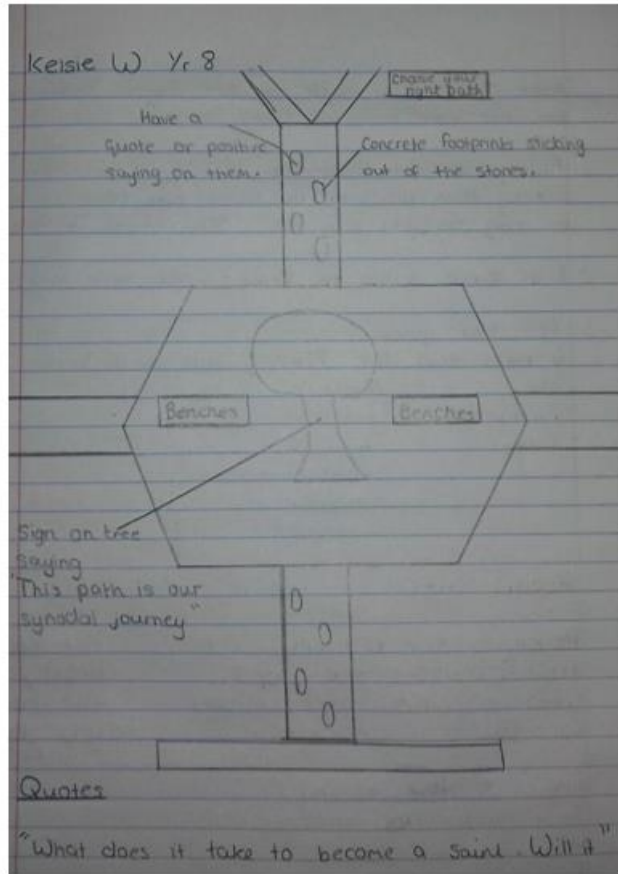
My dream for the church is to reach families and recover the broken. The Christian life isn't just about believing; it's also about belonging so we should bring the gospel to everyone. Our passion is to assist other churches to discover God's dream for their church. We should live out the virtues of prudence, justice, temperance and courage. Everyone should be represented as we are made in imago Dei. God had a plan for us even before we were born. We are brothers and sisters to all, and we should share light to others instead of shine light on ourselves. Within every soul there is a meaning and happiness. "The word of God is the beacon that guides the synodal journey that has begun throughout the church. As we strive to listen to each other, with attention and discernment, let us listen together to the word of God and the holy spirit." Pope Francis. We should become a church of closeness and the synod offers us an opportunity to do that. We need to immerse ourselves into today's problems and needs, bandaging wounds and healing broken hearts with the balm of God. "In this Year of Faith, we pray to the Lord that the Church may always be a true family that brings God's love to everyone" – Pope Francis. Synodality indicates walking together and listening to one another but above all to the Holy Spirit. "In the one People of God, therefore, let us journey together, in order to experience a Church that receives and lives this gift of unity, and is open to the voice of the Spirit," Pope Francis said as without the spirit there is no synod. The synod's three key words are communion, participation, and mission. He said that communion and mission describe the mystery of the Church. Communion expresses the very nature of the Church, according to the Second Vatican Council. The Synod offers us the opportunity to become a listening Church, to break out of our routine in order to stop and listen, and then to our brothers and sisters, their hopes, the crises of faith around the world. Keeping in mind that God's style is one of closeness, compassion and tenderness, the Pope said the Synod is also an occasion for the People of God not to be aloof but to become a Church of closeness by her very presence, bandaging wounds and healing broken hearts with the balm of God.

By Emily Haltof





## Kelsie Weston Pathways



Fire-  
Be beacons of  
light where  
there is  
darkness.

Veritas-  
At St. Martins  
we speak the  
Truth



Christ is at the  
centre of  
everything we  
do.

## Aimee Fraser Lectern Design





The meaning of the synod is to gather together and journey together, the church is a good gathering place because you can be filled with the holy spirit. A church can give you a sense of community and togetherness and you can know that you are safe in a church because God or Jesus would be looking over you. It also can be a joyous time to spend with others that you can trust and to celebrate for God. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the holy spirit" Romans 15:13, this quote from the Bible shows what the synod can be when you are in the church and God can reward you for having trust in him, God would want you to help him carry out random acts of kindness and have a loving relationship with him because he wants to have good in the world and he can forgive you if you made any mistakes. This all relates to synod because gathering together to care for each other and journeying together makes us feel safe and not alone. The synod is important because it can represent what we should do and that is to not exclude anybody or at least politely reject someone, not just saying no, and God can guide us to the right direction and decide what is morally right or wrong. "Do not judge according to appearance, but with righteous judgement" John 7:24, this quote is saying that you shouldn't 'judge' based on how they look but to 'judge' with what you think is morally right or wrong. This can guide us on our journeying because it can change how we think about other people and think about what we say before we actually say it, it can help us get a better view of what God wants us to do and how we treat our neighbours. The church can also guide us because it can inspire us to be more confident and trustworthy to others. We need to be confident and persevering to continue the journey to go forward in life or to journey to help others that are struggling in life. We should give our support to charities or others that journey in a difficult life, for example in poverty or affected

by climate change. We can also be truthful to others because they can try to be better next time.

Maya Millican Year 9







## Our Synod Song

We can be at one with God,  
Journeying together through the Synod.  
We can build our Church u-u-u-up,  
We can strengthen our f-f-f-faith,  
We can love our Lord G-G-G-God,  
We can give hope, joy, peace a-a-al-ways!

We are one big family,  
Worshipping God's glory!  
We are one big family,  
We write another chapter in this story!

It is better to illuminate than to merely shine,  
It is better to illuminate than to merely shine!

H-O-P-E!  
Everyone feels welcome!  
H-O-P-E!  
Pray in silence in a room full of voices!

J-O-Y-yeah!  
Our vocation's our inspiration!  
J-O-Y-yeah!  
We don't need to spend money to be happy!

P-E-A-C-E-woo!  
We are beacons of light in a world of darkness!  
P-E-A-C-E-woo!  
Where there is shadow, BE A STAR!

It is better to illuminate than to merely shine,  
It is better to illuminate than to merely shine!

We can be at one with God,  
Journeying together through the Synod.  
We can build our Church u-u-u-up,  
We can strengthen our f-f-f-faith,  
We can love our Lord G-G-G-God,  
We can give hope, joy, peace a-a-al-ways!

We can be at one with God,  
Journeying together through the Synod.

**Kara  
composed the  
music and  
wrote the  
lyrics to this  
song. They are  
also going to  
do a BSL  
video along  
with the music  
and put it all  
together into  
one video.**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2kTC8Hv-soY>





In the Year of St Joseph, Jonah in Year 8 has spent his dinner times with Mr Del Busso creating a wooden plaque for our reception area.





# Our Virtues linked to our Synod Journey



My challenge this week is to live out St Thomas Aquinas' virtue of Justice by being the voice for those who have no voice and stand up for what is right and fair in our world.

Isabella Rinaldi-Oxley 9R Divinity



My challenge this week is to live out St Thomas Aquinas' virtue of Temperance this week by being grateful for what I have and not to ask for more so I achieve the right balance in my life.

Scarlett Mathie 9I Divinity



My challenge this week is to live out St Thomas Aquinas' virtue of Justice by praying for those who are persecuted for their faith.

Will Kent 9I Divinity



"There would not be a perfect likeness of God in the Universe if all things were of one grade of being."



My challenge this week is to live out St Thomas Aquinas' virtue of Justice by lighting a candle for those men, women and children who are fleeing their homes to live a better life.

Jack Ball 9I Divinity



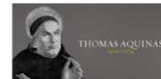
"Humility is the mark of a genuine disciple."

My challenge this week is to live out St Thomas Aquinas' virtue of Prudence by thinking about my words this week. I will not say anything to anyone that could cause hurt.

Thomas Gaskin 9I Divinity



"The soul is perfected by Knowledge and Virtue."



My challenge this week is to live out St Thomas Aquinas' virtue of Prudence by speaking the truth (Veritas) at all times.

Gabriel 8I Divinity

"Better to illuminate than to merely shine."



My challenge this week is to live out St Thomas Aquinas' virtue of temperance by carrying out acts of kindness for the rest of the month so that I can become a better person and to put God first in my life.

David 8I Divinity



"The light of Faith makes us see what we believe."

My challenge this week is to live out St Thomas Aquinas' virtue of Justice by praying for those who experience injustice in our world.

Emilia 8I Divinity



"There is within every soul a thirst for happiness and meaning."



My challenge this week is to live out St Thomas Aquinas' virtue of Justice by researching the work of Cafod and to light a candle for those in darkness.

Kaleb 8I Divinity

"Miracles are signs not to those who believe but to those who do not believe."



"The light of Faith makes us see what we believe."



"Better to illuminate than to merely shine."





Sabrina and Landon who are going to Lourdes enabled students in Divinity to email petitions to Lourdes on the week of Our Lady of Lourdes linked to the theme of the week 'Healing' as part of our Synodal journey.



Your prayer intention

I pray for the people who are in need and are less fortunate than ourselves and also for those who do not have a voice to speak for themselves- EH

354 max characters

☐ - I wish to associate a candle for my intention

Your prayer intention

I pray for the people who are being persecuted for their faith and I also pray for the homeless. -AW

399 max characters

☐ - I wish to associate a candle for my intention

Your prayer intention

I pray for people that are affected by climate change or by poverty as they struggle the most. I hope that my family also will be good in the future and hope that they aren't in danger. I pray that those in trouble or in pain seek help and get better. Maya Millican

235 max characters

☐ - I wish to associate a candle for my intention







Prayers said for our School family and CMAT family as part of our Synod journey of faith on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.



Mary is not only the bridge joining us to God; she is more. She is the road that God travelled to reach us, and the road that we must travel in order to reach him.  
[#AnnunciationOfTheLord](#)

9:31 am · 25 Mar 2021 · TweetDeck





Thank you to Lucy our Chaplain for spreading our love to those at Saffron House this Valentines Day as our random act of Kindness linked to the theme of Care.



**Tweet**



**Pope Francis**   
@Pontifex

Being a member of the people of God is a gift, a responsibility: the responsibility of witnessing by our deeds, not just our words, to God's wonderful works, which, once known, help people to acknowledge his existence and to receive his salvation. [#Synod](#)

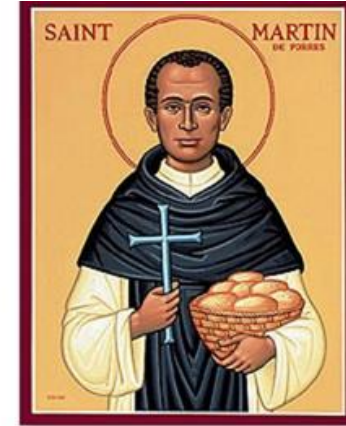






Synod  
2021  
2023

For a synodal Church  
communion | participation | mission



**“Always consider others as more holy and more worthy than you, at the same time strive to be as holy as you can be.”- Saint Martin**

