

As the month progresses and the Synod continues in Rome, there seems to be very little coming through from it and maybe the journalists have adopted the words of Pope Francis to their work and are being very circumspect in relation to what they will print. I know there have been some articles published – I have to admit that I have yet to read any of them – but what I do know is that this Synod is unlike others because it is dealing with round-table discussions and at the end of the period of time set aside this October the deliberations of those who took part will be gathered and shared with the Universal Church and just as we had the opportunity to fill in a questionnaire a couple of years ago about how we looked at the Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, so too will the discussions reach the local level in the Irish church and within the next eleven months there will be chances to look at what has come to the fore and discuss the details of what is deemed important and what is considered not so important in the life and the identity of the Church.

I have been asked how do we know what the Spirit is saying to us? How do we know that the Spirit is guiding us? A good pointer for us is that anything that is introduced should have a scriptural foundation. Without that or contrary to it is more than likely off the mark. For example, in past discussions I have had people try to argue for something that was not right and they said sure Jesus will forgive you, and they might refer to the place in the Gospel where the ‘woman caught in adultery’ is about to be stoned and it ends up with Jesus saying ‘your sins are forgiven you.’ The difficulty, though, with that quote is that it is incomplete – yes, he forgives her, but he adds ‘and go, sin no more.’ After the eleven or so months, the delegates will meet again next October and take into account what has been worked on around the world before anything is decided, discarded or not dealt with at all. (Fr. John)

**Feast Days:** Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>, *St. John of Capistrano*, 1386-1456, priest, studied civil and canon law and joined the Franciscan Order. A faithful servant of four popes, he attended the Council of Florence, went to Jerusalem as apostolic emissary, and, in 1451, set out on a preaching tour through the German provinces and Poland. In a battle at Belgrade, he contracted fever and died there. Patron saint of jurists and military chaplains.

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>, *St. Anthony Mary Claret*, 1807-1870, bishop, founded the Claretians in Spain for missionary work. Archbishop of Santiago, Cuba, then returned as chaplain to the Queen of Spain, and built schools and museums, before Being exiled with the monarchy. Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>, *Bl. Thaddeus McCarthy*, bishop, (secondary patron of the Diocese of Cloyne) was born in 1455. His appointment as Bishop of Ross was opposed and Innocent VIII then appointed him Bishop of Cloyne and Cork. He set out as a humble pilgrim to Rome where he was confirmed as Bishop and on his return journey in 1492 he died at Ivrea in Italy.

Friday 27<sup>th</sup>, *St. Otteran*, monk, a descendant of Conall Gulban, is usually identified with Odhran who preceded Columba in Iona. His death is recorded in 548 and his grave was greatly revered in Iona. He was chosen by the Vikings as patron of the city of Waterford in 1096 and later patron of the diocese.

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>, *Ss. Simon and Jude*, Apostles. The teaching of the apostles is the living gospel for all to hear. Their authority comes from their fidelity in Christ and his message. St. Jude is patron saint of hopeless cases.

Remember that the clocks go back next weekend

**Quote for the Week:** “*The Church’s mission is not political in nature. Her task is to open the world to the religious sense by proclaiming Christ*”.

- Pope Benedict XVI