

## Universal Prayer

### Sunday 17 October – Opening of the Synod in local Churches

*In the absence of a deacon, the Universal Prayer are proclaimed by a Minister of the Word*

- Priest: As we await with longing the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, dear brothers and sisters, let us with renewed devotion beseech his mercy, that, as he came into the world to bring the Good News to the poor and to heal the contrite of heart, so in our own time, also, he may bring salvation to all in need.
- Deacon: For God's holy Church: (pause) may she shine out as a light to the nations and the universal sacrament of salvation. Lord, in your mercy
- Deacon: For Francis our Pope, Mark our Bishop, and the holy, faithful People of God in the Diocese of Shrewsbury: (pause) that the celebration of this Synod may help us to discern God's will and to boldly carry it out. Lord, in your mercy
- Deacon: For all civil and public authorities: (pause) that they may always seek the common good, acting with justice and integrity. Lord, in your mercy
- Deacon: For the sick, the lonely, the oppressed, and the suffering: (pause) that they may never be discarded, but rather treasured and cared for as the face of Christ in a suffering world. Lord, in your mercy
- Deacon: For ourselves, gathered here: (pause) that this Synodal Process may lead us ever deeper into the communion of the Church, foster our participation in it, and equip us to go out on mission. Lord, in your mercy
- Priest: O God, our refuge and our strength, hear the prayers of your Church, for you yourself are the source of all devotion, and grant, we pray, that what we ask in faith we may truly obtain. Through Christ our Lord.

