



## WEEK 5 ART OF ENCOUNTER

+ In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

### **REFLECTION**

We too are called to become experts in the art of encounter. Not so much by organising events or theorising about problems, as in taking time to encounter the Lord and one another. Time to devote to prayer and to adoration – that form of prayer that we so often neglect – devoting time to adoration, and to hearing what the Spirit wants to say to the Church. Time to look others in the eye and listen to what they have to say, to build rapport, to be sensitive to the questions of our sisters and brothers, to let ourselves be enriched by the variety of charisms, vocations and ministries. Every encounter – as we know – calls for openness, courage and a willingness to let ourselves be challenged by the presence and the stories of others. .... He invites us to leave our old habits behind. Everything changes once we are capable of genuine encounters with him and with one another, without formalism or pretense, but simply as we are.

HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS St Peter's Basilica Sunday, 10 October 2021

(pause for a moment of silent reflection)

### **PRAYER**

O God, who always walks with us on the journey of life,  
we call upon you to lead us forth united.  
Bless and guide our Diocesan Synod.  
Keep us anchored in your love.  
Open our hearts as we listen and discern.  
Reveal to us the way we are called to go out into the deep.  
Give us the courage to pursue the mission with bold humility.  
May we experience renewal in our local Church today,  
and for generations to come.  
We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ,  
who in the power of the Holy Spirit continues to guide your Church,  
to the fullness of your Kingdom now, and forever.

Amen.

Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.  
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, pray for us.