



SCRIPTURE of the DAY

1 Kings 19: 9, 11-13
Psalm 84: 9-14
Romans 9: 1-5
Matthew 14: 22-33



“Despite different ethnicities and languages, our communities are well integrated in one Body, one Spirit and one Church. Synodality is an ordinary way, an everyday reality, for us.”

Cardinal Sebastian Francis

INTERNAL CIRCULATION ONLY
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To be Malaysian is already to belong to a rich and layered story. A person may be an English-speaking Peranakan Chinese Catholic, shaped by family, language, culture, migration, and history. Another may be Iban, Kadazan Dusun, Indian, Eurasian, Malay-speaking, Mandarin-speaking, Tamil-speaking, or formed by the life of Sabah, Sarawak, or Semenanjung. Each brings unique gifts to the Church.

MPC 2026 brings this diversity together. It is not simply a meeting, but a living sign of unity in diversity, where the many peoples and traditions of the Malaysian Church gather to listen, discern, and journey together.

We know something of what it means to belong to the universal Catholic Church. We experience it when Catholics from many nations gather for a Pope's Mass, World Youth Day, or other great celebrations of faith. There, the Church feels truly worldwide. But what does it mean to be local?

The Second Vatican Council helps us here. In *Lumen Gentium*, the Church is understood as both universal and local. The universal Church is not far from us; it is present in every local Church. A particular Church, usually a diocese under the leadership of its bishop, is fully part of the one Catholic Church while carrying its own language, culture, history, and way of living the faith.

Pope Francis expresses this clearly in *Evangelii Gaudium*. Each particular Church is the Church "incarnate in a certain place," with all that Christ gives for salvation, yet also "with local features" (EG 30).

When we speak of the Malaysian Church, we are not speaking of a Church separated from Rome or from the universal Church. We are speaking of the Catholic faith lived here, among our peoples, with our languages, cultures, wounds, gifts, and hopes.

By gathering Sabah, Sarawak, and Semenanjung into one space of listening and discernment, MPC 2026 witnesses to how the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church is lived in Malaysia today. We do not become more Catholic by becoming less Malaysian. Rather, the Gospel takes flesh within the Malaysian context. MPC 2026 is therefore a step towards a stronger Malaysian Catholic identity—rooted in Christ, faithful to the universal Church, and alive to the many cultures, languages, and communities that make Malaysia home.✠

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NEWBEC

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH | 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time | 9 August 2026

WALKING TOGETHER TOWARDS A SYNODAL AND PROPHETIC CHURCH

A People for Missionary Discipleship

MONTHLY FOCUS: SOCIETY: Unity In Diversity

MPC 2026: Towards a stronger Malaysian Catholic Identity

Sometimes we forget the incredible diversity of the Catholic Church in Malaysia. We speak of unity, but if we are not careful, unity can slowly become uniformity. We may begin to think that to be Church, everyone must pray, speak, organise, and express faith in the same way. But that is not our Malaysian reality.

