

VHI Collaborative Workshop



Practicing Synodality: Toolkits for Churches, Schools, and Communities

You are cordially invited to participate in the upcoming collaborative workshop, organised jointly by the **The Von Hügel Institute** and **The Margaret Beaufort Institute**, entitled '**Practicing Synodality: Toolkits for Churches, Schools, and Communities**'.

Join us on **Saturday, 1st February from 1–4pm in The Garden Room, St Edmund's College** as we explore the implications of our call to greater participation in local churches, schools and communities in the light of the multi-year Synod on Synodality, which concluded in October 2024.

In this afternoon workshop, we will begin by reflecting on what happened at the Synod with one of its theologian participants, VHI Senior Research Associate **Sr Prof Maria Cimperman RSCJ**. We will then build a 'toolkit' of synodal best practices and shared wisdom, both in conversation together and informed by a diverse panel of local community members. Our time together will conclude with our own practice of Conversation in the Spirit, using one of the prime vehicles of discernment at the Synod.



Sr Prof Maria Cimperman RSCJ joined the Von Hügel Institute as a Senior Research Associate in 2024. She is a Religious of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, working at the intersection of moral theology, social ethics and spirituality. An ethicist and Professor at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, she is the Founding Director of the Center for the Study of Consecrated Life. Her education includes a MDiv (University of Notre Dame), STL (Weston Jesuit School of Theology), and a PhD (Boston College). An engaging speaker who enjoys engaging global perspectives with a reflective lens that looks at the realities and needs around us, Maria works with women and men in various stages of initial and ongoing formation, leadership groups and congregations discerning future directions. In addition to her writings on these topics, she presents both nationally and internationally with diverse groups on religious life issues.



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