

Save the date: Lecture 23 May 5 pm-6.30 pm at

Newman College, University of Melbourne

Information on how to register for the talk to follow. We hope it will be recorded for later viewing.

Interpreting the signs of the times: doing theology in a synodal way

A talk and Q&A with Visiting theologian Fr Agbonkhianmeghe E. Orobator, SJ.

Recently (1 November 2023), Pope Francis issued an Apostolic Letter '[Ad theologiam promovendam](#)'. The Catholic News Agency explained the content of the document with this heading: [Pope Francis calls for 'paradigm shift' in theology for world of today.](#)

What is the significance of the Pope's call for a change in how theology is done? In the words of an unofficial translation of the Pope's Apostolic Letter (still only in Latin and Italian!), what does it mean for theologians, priests, and parishioners 'to start from the different contexts and concrete situations in which peoples are inserted', allowing themselves 'to be seriously challenged by reality', to discern the "signs of the times" in the light of the gospel?

Fr Orobator, SJ will speak on the implications of '[Ad theologiam promovendam](#)'. He is the new Dean (May 2023) of the Jesuit School of Theology, Santa Clara University, California. He is a Nigerian by birth and is former head of the Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar. He has been deeply involved in the different stages of the current Synod on Synodality, including his participation in the First Assembly in October 2023 in Rome, at the invitation of the Pope.