



# Synod Feedback Form

<b>NAME OF PARISH</b>	<b>NAME OF PASTORAL GROUPING</b>
<b>St. John the Evangelist Church</b>	<b>Dundrum/Ballinteer/Meadowbrook</b>
<b>VENUE OF GATHERINGS</b>	<b>IN PERSON OR ZOOM</b>
<b>Our Lady's School Hall Ballinteer Avenue.</b>	<b>In Person</b>
<b>NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS (1<sup>st</sup> Gathering)</b>	<b>NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS (2<sup>nd</sup> Gathering)</b>
<b>50</b>	<b>45</b>

## THE JOYS

WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?	No.	WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?	
Sense of family/community/meeting others/talking with others/love	38	Cell group	1
Sacraments/baptism/ First Holy Communion/Confirmation	12	Corpus Christ Procession	1
Communion/Eucharist	10	The Church has HOPE	1
Singing/music	9	Celebration	1
Mass	9	Our Rock/support	1
Silent reflection in empty Church/prayers	6	Church moving away from rules & fear	1
Being an altar server/family member serving Mass	6	St. Vincent de Paul	1
Closeness to the Lord	5	Voluntary groups	1
Feeling of Peace/sign of peace	4	Inspired by a family death to be more religious	1
Sense of belonging/community of Faith	4	Good behaviour during Covid	1
Inspiring homilies	4	Church leaders/Pope	1
The Church teaches TRUTH/Truth	4	Catholic Faith	1
Children's liturgy/Children singing	3	God Our Father	1
Seeing young people in Church and goodness in them	3	Communion of Saints	1
Word of God/New Testament	3	Proximity to God	1
The Church shop	3	Follower of Jesus	1
Eucharistic Adoration & Prayer	2	Sense of forgiveness & renewal	1
Christmas & Easter ceremonies	2	A help in religious class in school	1
Inspiration of saints	2		
Commitment of priests/deacon/ parish teams	2		
Ecumenism	2		
Seeing new babies	2		

## THE SORROWS

WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?	No.	WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?	No.
Loss of young people in Church/alienation	16	Churches may be closing down	1
Absence of women in leadership roles, priesthood, lack of respect, discrimination	13	Failure to use part of big Churches as a pastoral/community centre	1
Disillusionment/disappointment with abuse by religious/cover up	10	Lack of children	1
No community/parish hall, cup of tea/coffee, etc	5	Limited role of deacons	1
Negative reporting of anything to do with Catholicism	4	Lack of courtesy among people	1
Priests & religious being targeted for sexual abuse	4	Lack of respect in presence of Blessed Sacrament – chatter	1
Lack of love & compassion for minority groups, gay people	4	Need to make better use of resources	1
Lack of appreciation of work done by religious in the past	3	Clerical Church - Lack of lay involvement	1
Celibacy should be optional, lonely life of priests, married priests	3	No young couples at Synodal meeting	1
No community connection	3	Ignorance of what is happening in the parish	1
Leadership. Bishops? Failed to move with the times	3	Nowhere to go after Mass	1
People not allowed to attend Mass & funerals in person at times during Covid	3	No folk Mass	1
Not a lot of young priests, few vocations	3	People don't set good example	1
People moving away from the Church	3	People being killed for their religion	1
Lack of religious education/ inadequate religious education	3	Funerals	1
Lack of Church's teachings being put across in sermons/irrelevant	2	Easter	1
No preaching re commandments, sacraments, Holy Spirit, 7 deadly sins	2	Negative effect of wealth on families	1
No support for young couples	2	Loss of faith & hope in people	1
Should be fixed time for confessions	2	Death & Covid	1
Brushing issues under the carpet	2	Failure to listen to those who think differently to us	1
No nuns or priests visit schools	2	Failure to embrace change	1
Possibility of a Youth Mass once a month? Taize?	2	Failure to engage with young people & children	1
Lack of Truth	2	Wars in the name of religion	1
The Church has lost contact with people	2	Lack of religion	1
Archaic language in liturgies - services too staid	2	Failing to bring the Gospel of Jesus to the marketplace	1
Disappointed with lack of support from Church when defending the right to life	2	Voice of youth missing	1
		People see the Church as the "institutional Church" and don't take personal responsibility	1
		Present situation re survival of Church	1
		Mass the only way the Church attempts to connect with the community	1
		Education on Church teaching, marriage, sexuality, etc	1
		Not enough emphasis on salvation, people too materialistic	1
		Not enough being done to provide youth groups with links to Church activities	1
		Hard to listen to homilies being shouted at me from the altar	1
		Disappointed with lack of support from Church when defending the right to life	1
		Mother treated badly by affluent priests	1
		Excessive clericalism in the past	1
		Disappointed with lack of welcome for young people and young mothers in the Church	1
		Failure to share miracles which are real	1
		Hearing non-practicing Catholics giving out about the Church	1

## THE HOPES

WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?	No.	WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?	No.
The Pope, compassion, openness	8	Activities	1
Gathering of community in prayer	5	Not open to women	1
Many good young people in the world - the Church of the future	5	Celibacy	1
Seeing young people in Church	4	Women deacons as a minimum	1
The Holy Spirit comes in unusual ways - Life in the Spirit	4	Ten commandments	1
The Children's Mass - young families in Church	3	Seven sacraments	1
SVP, Trócaire, etc	3	Seven deadly sins	1
Openness to communities previously discriminated against	3	People can identify with the Church	1
Universal Church	3	Scriptures	1
Family of boys & girls who serve Mass	2	Relationship between Old & New Testaments	1
The Church helps poor & marginalised	2	God is in every person	1
Married priests	2	The Church is One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic	1
The power of prayer	2	Good Leaders, Pope, Parish Priest	1
Love of people for each other	2	The Church being less powerful gives hope	1
The Synodal process	2	Older people have a lot of knowledge to pass on to younger people	1
Faith in the Resurrection and life to come	2	Women taking more leadership roles in the Church	1
New Religion programme in primary schools	2	Hope that religious classes would continue	1
Faith groups, cell groups	2	Church involved in difficult situations	1
God is full of hope; he is our hope	2	Mistakes made by Church shows that the perpetrators were human	1
Importance of Mass	2	Lay people will take up the challenge to proclaim the kingdom of God	1
		Church in Ballinteer represented by people and buildings	1
		Family of the Church	1
		Significance of Christian message	1
		We must encourage and offer hope to our children	1
		Very good work of pastoral teams	1
		Rule book needs to be rewritten	1
		All are welcome	1
		Church is changing but keeping the good things	1
		Preach the Gospel	1
		Nothing to identify with for young people	1
		Receiving Holy Communion	1
		The Church a place of worship	1
		Young people preparing for the sacraments	1
		The power within - the spirit	1
		Parental involvement in preparing for sacraments	1
		Innate goodness and sense of community in young people	1
		Young people more Christian than elders	1
		During Covid the local Church created a sense of community	1
		Younger teachers educating infants in simpler form	1
		World leadership	1
		Promotion of peace and justice	1
		Commitment of young people to practical activities through Church organisations	1
		Church will triumph in the end against evil	1
		Trust in God	1
		Pray for family members	1
		Belief in Church	1
		Drop regulations	1
		Love God and your neighbour	1
		Small is good	1
		The Church is starting to listen to people	1

		Use of technology, podcasts, YouTube	1	
		Commitment of clergy	1	
		Women priests	1	
		Hope that the priests & laity listen to the needs of disaffected young people	1	
		Everyone is spiritual	1	
		The Church is growing worldwide	1	
		Hope s everyone working together for climate change	1	
		God made everyone unique	1	
		Singing in Church	1	
		Seeing new people in Church from all over the world	1	

## THE FEARS

WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?	No.	WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?	No.
Shortage of priests - lack of vocations	15	Church won't change very much	1
Anxious about lack of young people	9	Never hear anything about commandments, 7 deadly sins, sacraments, 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit	1
Media attitude to Church	5	Change can be good, but we still retain sacraments, Eucharist, Mass	1
Increased role of women needed in Church, women priests	5	Need for activities to keep young people involved all the way up to adulthood	1
Not enough love between people	4	Church won't be the same because of changes	1
No need to be afraid - God is always with us	3	Closure of churches	1
Lack of education of young people - no understanding of the meaning of faith	3	Can't always receive Holy Communion	1
Far too many rules and regulations	2	Can't always serve Mass	1
Lost ability to be tolerant	2	The faith of our fathers will disappear	1
Church not relevant to society	2	That the Church offer welcome & compassion to others through outreach activities	1
Church is too clerical	2	Dissension within the Church	1
Growth of individualisation, lack of commitment to a parish community	2	Church will refuse to change and become irrelevant	1
Secular ideology in society	2	Lack of faith in next generation	1
Poor parental example of attending Church after children make Confirmation	2	Popes are too old when elected	1
The scandals and coverups will undermine future of the Church	2	Need for Sunday school as more non-denominational schools develop	1
		Do not understand Church's function to help us glorify God	1
		Time to bring back priests who have married	1
		Need for more cooperation between parishes	1
		Fake news about Vatican	1
		Criticism and lack of understanding of marginal people	1
		Lack of compassion, lack of inclusion	1
		Lack of openness	1
		Parish priests imposing their will on a parish and then being moved	1
		Exclusion of gay people from sacraments	1
		Failure of hierarchy to speak out against abortion referendum	1
		Sacrament of Penance being pushed aside	1
		Lack of meeting place in the parish	1
		No laity involvement	1
		Discussion meetings needed every 6-8 weeks re anxiety about Church	1
		Absence of annual Church mission to renew our faith	1
		Failure of Church to speak out against injustice	1
		Failure of Church to speak for the poor and vulnerable	1
		Church is not apostolic enough	1
		War between good and evil. Church should speak out against evil	1
		Anxious about porn, trafficking	1
		The lack of a knowledge of a personal relationship with Jesus and his love	1
		Fear for family members who have rejected the Church	1

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

### WHAT THEMES ARE EMERGING FROM THE GATHERING?

The feeling of community people obtained from attending Church.  
The shortage of priests and lack of vocations.  
The lack of young people in Church – a lost generation.  
The role of women in the Church should be addressed; possible female deacons and priests  
Make the parish attractive to young people.  
The negative attitude of the media in general is not helping to retain people or attract new people to attend Church.  
The physical infrastructure of the local Church could be adapted to be more community friendly.  
We need to welcome all people. People with different opinions, beliefs, nationalities etc. should not be ostracised.  
The culture of the Church and mission of each parish.  
The sacraments and their importance, family Masses.  
A welcoming group should continue at the doors post Covid.  
The abuse of the church and the attempts to cover it up.  
The Pope and his openness and compassion.

### WHAT MIGHT THE HOLY SPIRIT BE INDICATING IN THIS?

The passion of people who spoke at the Synod sessions is full of hope.  
The Church we have at present is for the people who want to attend. What about those who don't want to attend?  
That we should talk about issues relevant to the Church.  
The Catechism of the Good Shepherd should be available to children.  
Seminars should be run again in the parish post Covid; e.g. . Alpha, Life in the Spirit etc.

SIGNED

DATE

*Jim O'Dea*

8/4/2022