

# Synod Feedback Form

NAME OF PARISH	NAME OF PASTORAL GROUPING
St. Paul's Parish, Ayrfield	
VENUE OF GATHERINGS	IN PERSON OR ZOOM
St Pauls School Hall	In Person
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS (1 <sup>st</sup> Gathering)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS (2 <sup>nd</sup> Gathering)
41 excluding animators	24 excluding animators

# THE JOYS

WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?	No.	WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?	No.
The Church gives me a sense of belonging, a place to meet friends and socialise in a spirit	19	The 2nd Vatican Council changed to Mass and ceremonies (English Mass etc.)	1
of community		Greater openness by church establishment.	1
Meeting together. Meeting fellow parishioners. Made lifetime friends attending church. Sharing time. Where I meet with friends. Meeting like-minded people.		Acknowledgement that clergy and faithful are journeying together.	1
Together with people being with in union with others I feel joy when I am in our parish community partaking in our church services		Married clergy and female clergy would encourage expansion.	1
The people I meet in Church Belonging. Being part of parish and community.		General absolution should be more often.	1
Coming together in support of the bereaved. The joy I feel when I go into church in a foreign country – Home.		Feeling the spirit in me that other people can see.	1
Just being part of the church. Joy at being part of church family. Being part of the church community		I would replace the word joy with comfort.	1
Joy is seeing people on way to Mass. Greeting each other with a smile Sharing the Mass with friends and relations.		Would have preferred if the meeting was held in the church	1
		So much joy is missing in the	1

The Church is my home, it		world today	
brings me peace, solace, joy	15	wond today	
and contentment.		What makes me sad is the	1
		people who stopped coming to	
Being present in the church, feeling that		church because of the wrong-	
it's my place to be. The church, to me, is my home place,		doings of a few. These people	
where I belong.		are missing out on so much!	
The peace I feel within (sometimes).			
I'm not over religious but just going to		These days since I gave up	1
Mass gives me peace and contentment. The quiet and peace in the church		attending anything with the	
Being there alone to pray		institutional Catholic Church,	
Sharing my thoughts, my anxieties		nothing.	
knowing that God is with me, helping me to accept the bad times and good times.			
Someone to look up to and to pray to.			
Joy that most things that happen in my life			
relate to religion or have an answer in			
religion, - it's as if I have a guidebook to help me.			
I look but don't always get something to			
take me through week - that challenges			
me. Where L go in sorrow			
Where I go in sorrow. Not a lot of joy in the church as a whole,			
but certain things like the spirit gives me			
comfort in bad times and help me			
understand the real love of Jesus. The knowledge, according to St Paul, that			
there is nothing that can come between			
me and the love of Christ.			
Joy in Jesus.			
The joy of being in the presence of Jesus in the tabernacle.			
Ohumah musia ahaina anal	11		
Church music, choirs and singing bring joy			
Joy equals music in the church.			
Singing in church. Music choirs - our ukulele supremo.			
Live music in the church.			
Ukulele music gives joy.			
Singing and belonging together. Music in the church.			
Wusic in the church. When I can go to Mass and sing with the			
choir.			
Music singing brings me joy			
In the past, joy came with beautiful church music			
Hearing happy young children			
	9		
Celebration of the Sacraments especially with family members			
Joy in weddings, baptisms, communions,			
confessions, community.			
Celebrating sacraments with family gatherings.			
gatherings.			

Baptism of grandchildren. Availability of confession, Eucharistic		
adoration, communal celebrations.		
Where we celebrate. I like to attend Mass, go to the		
sacraments and thanksgiving.		
Receiving the Eucharist.		
The reception of the Eucharist.		
Availability of penance.		
	9	
The joy of attendance at Mass		
Joy in Mass.		
The daily celebration of Mass.		
Attendance at Mass – when I wish to go. When first being brought to Mass by my		
mother.		
Thinking of my mother bringing me to		
church when I was young.		
The many happy Sundays going to Mass with my grandfather and all the family;		
everyone was clean and tidy – all had		
their Sunday best clothes on.		
My communion, confirmation etc. Are things that give me joy		
Nice flowers on the alter, reflection, able		
to concentrate on prayers and nice Mass.		
It makes me feel good for the day.		
Listening to and understanding	7	
the word of God through good		
quality sermons and my bible		
Sermons of quality that engendered deep reflection.		
A good, well-prepared sermon without endless repetition.		
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# THE SORROWS

WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED	No.	WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED	No.
AND CONVERGE?		AND DIVERGE?	
Decline in the attendance at Mass	14	Changes required in the church to permit priests to marry	2
My children were raised as Catholics, lost their faith and my poor grandchildren don't know the church. I feel very sorry for the lack of young people who attend the church but feel that I can only show the way through example and letting them know how		Changes required in the church include readmit those expelled or because they got married. Changes required in the church include allowing priests to marry	
important the Mass is to me. What brings sadness is not seeing younger people in the church. Falling off of young adults and their children attending Mass. Children don't want to attend Mass. I feel sorrow when I see churches empty and hope young people will get back to		<b>The Synodal Process</b> Important – a follow up to all these meetings! Who made the questions up? How are they relevant?	2
their religion I am sad that so many people don't see a role for Our Lord's teaching in their lives. That so many no longer attend, compared to the faith of my late mother's generation. The non-attendance of this generation		<b>Confession/reconciliation</b> Modify systems associated with the sacraments – confessions could be a real "salve to the soul", "user friendly". The sacrament of reconciliation to move to more general absolution.	2
compared to my mother's. So many people not going to Mass. I'm sad that young people don't go to		Misogyny towards and harsh treatment of gay people	2
church and miss out on a lovely experience. Decline in church attendance. I feel sad when we don't see many young people coming to church any more The people who have left the Church because of the wrong-doings by a few		The misogyny, the harsh treatment of gay people, the lack of compassion, the arrogance ("the one true church and anyone who remains outside it cannot be saved"), indulgences, which since I was a child, struck me as utterly ridiculous and plain unbelievable.	
Church/Clerical abuse)	13	Nowadays the continued rejection of gay people, as if the same creator who made	
The history of abuse. Abuse Clerical sexual abuse.		the clergy, did not put a stamp of approval on all.	
Due to recent, and not so recent scandals, the Church has lost its moral voice in the world.		Sacraments seen as a big day	2
Any comments by the Church authorities as ignored due to the failure to correct their own house		They use the church for ceremonial occasions. Sacramental preparation seen only as	
Lost credibility of teachers. Sadness about the child abuse cases. I am sad so many priests abused		for the "big day".	1
children, became political, became rich. Abuse in the church. Abuse/scandals. Past abuse that was not acknowledged		More readings on the line of "do to others as you'd like them to do to you".	
How the church handled clerical abuse			

What impelled me to stop attending was not only the destruction of innocent		We need a living Jesus.	
children through sexual abuse by priests		We have come through a priest	1
but also the complacency of congregations regarding the matter.		led church and are coming to a	1
		lay church.	
Organisation and management of the church		Secularisation/consumerism in	
	7	society.	1
A question is what happened to our			
church or what has been happening. Young people feeling too much wealth in		Clericalism in society.	1
the institutions. Power being abused.		What makes me sorrowful	
What makes me sorrowful about the		about the Church is a	1
Church is the Financial corruption. What makes me sorrowful about the		homosexual cabal that has infiltrated the Church, which	
Church is a hierarchy that is not fit for		covers for itself, protects itself,	
purpose The way the Church was run		Invades the seminaries and	
Where are the leaders?		filters out good candidates for the priesthood in favour of their	
		own kind or weak minded ones.	
Lack of Priests and the decline		We must clean up the Church	
in vocations	5	before we can renew the Church's mission	
The lack of priests and nuns.			
Priests overburdened.		Really and truly, no respect for	
That the priesthood demise rolls on unaddressed.		Jesus' presence in the tabernacle - so much talking	1
Decline in vocations. Lack of vocations.		and joking when trying to pray.	
Lack of Priests			
Poor Conduct of Clergy towards		I have been very fortunate to say that my personal	1
their congregation	F	experiences have all been	-
	5	positive	
The conduct at my mother's burial. That the men and women of God never		All the hurt in the world.	
behaved in a God like way – they did not show the love and care of Jesus.		An the narr in the world.	1
Also the harsh regime in seminaries		Children suffering.	
which attempted to dehumanise young men. They did not learn the love and		Poverty and third world	4
compassion of Jesus Christ in their		countries living in desperate	1
formation. The way people were so afraid of the		conditions.	
clergy. You could not say a wrong word about the priests. They would make a		No understanding of our	1
show of you if you had not your		Church v their Church.	1
Christmas, Easter, harvest collections paid. Your name would be called out from			
the pulpit. I would feel so sad and		Shame or sorrow?	
sorrowful for those people that had not got the money			1
		No preparation of Sunday	1
Lack of Women in and all levels of the clergy e.g. priests,	4	sermon.	
deacons etc.			1
Women's role in the church to date ()		Canonisation of doubtful	'
No women deacons.		candidates.	

No women in positions of responsibility.	1	
Changes required in the church include		
allowing women into all levels of the clergy		
50.97		
Foor wethout they love of Cod		
Fear, rather than love, of God preached		
predened	4	
Fear of God?		
Fear – We should not fear God. A missed opportunity to bring love,		
kindness, goodwill - Is this what has		
contributed to the rejection of religion? Fear of a punishing God.		
Our generation brought up in the fear of		
God, not the love of God.		

# THE HOPES

WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?	No.	WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?	No.
Young people and young families coming to Mass Any young families coming to the church are a blessing and should have a special welcome from the congregation. My hope is in the next generation. Younger people are being taught to be caring and loving. The church of the future will be led by the laity Seeing young families at Mass. That young people will always keep the spirit of God alive, even if it is just a small minority of young people Young families come along I'd be more hopeful if there were more young people When I see young people it gives me hope because it it a sense of continuity I think people will return to the church, especially the young people.	10	Pope Francis being down to earth and in touch with the ordinary people The Pope showing he is one of the people not separate and above them. He seems to be the exception not the rule. I get hope for the future of the church from Pope Francis. He is such a down to earth person. He seems in touch with ordinary people. Pope Francis brings me hope. He is humble and not caught up in all the trappings of the papacy. He is prepared to be with ordinary people and listen to their concerns No hope for the future without radical change	3
Seeing all the young children in Mass with their family. I hope we will see more people attending		I really can't answer this. Sorry. But I don't see a lot of hope for the	

Mass – especially the youth.	6	church unless there is radical change. Nothing	
The Church will always be with	0	5	
US It is how it will always be there no matter how low the numbers. God won't desert us. Knowing that God will always be with us In Christ's words "I will be with you always even to the end of time" Jesus always was and always will be with us in the church Despite circumstances everything is in God's hands I hope the church will survive into the future and I believe it will for some time to		That Rome listens to and recognises active participation of laity I hope for a better church to listen to the people I have Hope in the Church going forward because: I think Rome is at last recognising the necessity of more active participation by the laity This may take a lot of time but feel the process has begun, hence my reason for Hope	2
come.		The faith of previous generations	2
<b>Dedication of our priests</b> The dedication of our priests Priests are very devoted in their commitments	4	I think of my mother's faith and those of her generation. The non-attendance of this generation compared to my mother's.	
The strong faith and hard work of priests who are serving despite all the scandals I hope and pray for more vocations		Hope that women can become priests,	1
A more active laity The laity playing a bigger role in the liturgy of the church I think the church will survive but in a	4	That the Catholic Church continues on after all the hurt some priests all over the world did to it's population.	1
more laity run church. I thank all the lay people doing good		We have a lovely church	1
duties. The role the laity is forced to take because of the lack of clergy.		Joyful singing accompanies Sunday Mass	1
		Mass is celebrated daily	1
		This Synodal Process	1

# THE FEARS

WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?	No.	WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?	No.
The lack of vocations and its impact	7	Failure of Church to adapt and allow married priests	2
Priests overworked hence danger of Mass and sacraments being more difficult to access. if churches may have to close due to a lack of vocations Vocations to the priesthood are very		That the church seems unwilling to move with the times - marriage for the priesthood. The failure of the church to move with the times and allow marriage for priests.	
scarce I fear the lack of priests No ordinations to the priesthood or religious life for the future of the Roman		Closure of our parish church due to shortage of priests	2
Catholic Church. There won't be enough priests to fill the needs of the church I am concerned about the lack of priests and the age profile of those already in ministry who have to take on so much in their later years. That we might end up with no priests		At the moment, I'm extremely anxious and worried that our church will be pulled down and replaced by blocks of apartments and I won't have anywhere local to worship as I grow older. That our church will close due to a shortage of priests.	
The look of young people in the		Completing the synodal process	2
The lack of young people in the church I am fearful when I see that my grandchildren are not going to church	5	Hope Pope Francis lives to see the synod through I fear this consultation being ignored.	
even though they are baptised. The spiritual side of their lives is very lacking. They are all good people so I pray that they come back to, the church Less and less young people. I fear the lack of young people taking part in the Church The next generation won't know what it was all about. That the younger generation may not get the chance experience the church if churches may have to close due to a lack		I would get anxious to think we may not have any priests or nuns in the coming years – I would like to think that in my final hours on earth that I would have a priest to give me the last rites.	1
of vocations The long-term effects of clerical sex abuse scandals	3	Church not answering needs which are apparent and not even allowing questions to be discussed.	1
I am anxious for the church as long as it does not clear with the past (abuse) and connect with the present Darkness of the past causing people's mistrust to church authority. Fearful of coming persecutions in our country hung on the hook of the terrible scandals in the church		I am both anxious and fearful that the "decline in vocations" will make the bond between parish and church weaken to such an extent that the relevance of our church will no longer be practical.	1

Failure of Church to adapt and allow women priests.	3	Also will the involvement of the laity fill the gap (left by the lack of priests).	1
Women are not wanted or affirmed in church ministry That the church seems unwilling to move with the times regarding women and marriage for the priesthood. The failure of the church to move with the times and appoint women priests and marriage for priests.		Fear of the unknown. I am also fearful that many people who have fallen by the wayside may in time move to other churches/religions. That the next generation will not have the same belief in God. A God who is there to support us	1 1
		through all our troubles and worries. People don't talk about Jesus on a daily basis	1
		Children are sacramentalised too easily without real commitment to faith by their parents	1
		People get embarrassed with being Roman catholic and not to be persecuted We don't hear the good news of	1
		our church.	1
		Very long and boring Homilies.	1
		That there will be no religion in the future.	1

# **REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

# WHAT THEMES ARE EMERGING FROM THE GATHERING?

## **Responses:**

- Low number of responses 41 in a parish of 2500.
- Despite the nominal response, it was a worthwhile exercise.
- Very broad reflections

#### **Priests:**

- Married priests worried there will not be priest in the future.
- Priesthood as a vocation.
- The church allowing Women priests may help relieve the shortage and challenges. Not about numbers but about enrichment.

### • First step is to appoint women deacons

## **Identity:**

- Sense of belonging
- Sense of identity despite the challenges

## Society:

- Society has had a huge impact on our religion and how it is perceived by the younger generation. Ireland is a very secular society. The church is not needed as it was many years ago in Ireland.
- Most people return for sacraments. So, there is something spiritual within the younger people.
- There is a switch somewhere an inherent goodness in people so how do we tap into that goodness and bring them back to the church.

# The youth:

- Will our religion be passed on? Do the next generation want it? Is there a sense of importance in passing on the faith?
- Lots of young people believe even though they are not practicing or attend Mass.
- There is a need to reach out to young people

## Concerns:

Concerns that our church will be closed and our parish will be lost.

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

- Calling
- Play our part to keep the church going?
- There is a time in the church to bring in women or married priests
- Faith development and evangelisation
- Cut out the distractions and focus on the core issues and build on that
- · Do not spread resources out too thin
- Sign of hope

SIGNED	DATE
Gozie Offiah	11.04.2022
Kieran Coyle	11.04.2022