



Synod Feedback Report

NAME OF PARISH	NAME OF PASTORAL GROUPING
Church of St. Vincent De Paul, Parish of Marino	
VENUE OF GATHERINGS	IN PERSON OR ZOOM
Scoil Mhuire Boy's National School Hall	In Person
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS AT GATHERING	NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS BY QUESTIONNAIRE
84	24

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

WHAT THEMES ARE EMERGING FROM THE GATHERING?

The need to belong to the Church is strong but the Church needs radical change. There is a desire for a new more enlightened Church moving away from rules and regulations and towards a Church of love and compassion.

Change is necessary and desired. There is a real fear that current church structures will stop this change, regardless of what Pope Francis wants. This change must include women priests/deacons and probably married priests.

Church has become irrelevant to the young. They feel their lifestyles (sex outside of marriage) are out of sync with the rules of the established church.

There is a wide gap between older traditional Catholics and the young Catholic, but the majority of traditional Catholics appear to accept the necessity for change in line with societal values.

The cover-up of past abuse has caused great sorrow among Catholics and is likely a contributory factor in the fall-off in faith/practise.

The inclusion of music at Mass (and the sacraments) is a strong desire of parishioners

WHAT MIGHT THE HOLY SPIRIT BE INDICATING IN THIS?

Belief in God is strong, but the focus of the Church must shift to a loving, compassionate Church as Jesus indicated. The teaching and message of the Church must be LOVE.

Church structures and hierarchy need to be reconstructed and must include women priests and married priests.

There is a requirement to prioritise a strategy for the attraction and inclusion of young people and to engage the necessary professional expertise to build a robust model. This cannot be left solely in the hands of the hierarchy.

The church must change to accept and accommodate the pressures the young and marginalised (divorced, LGBTQI) are facing, in line with the love-centred teachings of Christ.

Music should become an everyday part of worship.

Detailed feedback follows under each of the four headings Joys, Sorrows, Hopes and Fears.

Views raised by a large number of people (5 or more) are classified as convergent and are shown on the left side of the table.

Views raised by a smaller number of people (less than 5) are classified as divergent and are shown on the right side of the table.

SIGNED Fr. Tom Noone, Anne Marie McCarrick and Teresa Ayres	DATE 24th April 2022
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Question 1: When you think of your experience of Church, what brings joy?

THE JOYS

WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?	No.	WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?	No.
<p>Belonging: to a community and the benefits of shared value systems and shared faith. An opportunity to participate, to be included in liturgy, to be involved in communal ritual and ceremony, communal prayer and whole family participation. Feeling welcomed, being supported, sharing a feeling of togetherness and meeting others.</p>	50	<p>Church of love and compassion: joy was expressed at the welcome change away from a church of rules and judgement</p>	2
<p>Music: at services enlivens participation. Singing, in particular, if led by a choir/group. Priests' participation in singing a wonderful addition. Opportunity to be a member of Church choir valued.</p>	25	<p>Availability of online Masses: and the possibility offered by embracing technology.</p>	2
<p>Sacraments and church/community events: Occasions such as First Holy Communion, Confirmations, Baptisms, weddings and even funerals were considered as special joyous events because of community involvement and participation. Christmas and Easter services were also highlighted. Being able to access Mass, receiving the Blessed Eucharist and the gift of the sacrament of Reconciliation and the sacrament of the Sick were all acknowledged.</p>	48	<p>Church as guidance: in life.</p>	1
<p>Healing: especially after bereavement and the support given by the parish funeral team</p>	6	<p>Security: of being in a safe environment where one can admit their beliefs.</p>	3
<p>Priest as part of community: rather than apart from community and dedication of priests</p>	6	<p>Peace of mind/spiritual and mental support: providing stability and routine in an ever-changing world.</p>	4
		<p>Comfort: especially through the Resurrection and Easter services.</p>	1
		<p>Gratitude: for being accompanied through life.</p>	1
		<p>Forgiveness: through the sacrament of Reconciliation.</p>	1
		<p>The Word of God and Meaningful Prayer: relationship with God</p>	3
		<p>More acceptance: of same sex couples</p>	1
		<p>Dedication of the Laity: women who look after the Church</p>	1
		<p>Faith: handed down</p>	1
		<p>No joy: one participant response "don't feel joy in Church" another said "very little at present".</p>	2

Question 2: When you think of your experience of Church, what brings sorrow?

THE SORROWS

WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?	No.	WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?	No.
<p>Historical child abuse cases: People expressed sorrow at the cover-ups, “lack of honesty at the top”, “too many lies”. “The past is confused with faith”. Strong feelings of justice in the young may account for the fall-off in religious practise of the young.</p> <p>Also, unfair blaming of good priests and nuns mentioned.</p>	37	<p>Emphasis on sin and rules and regulations: of church versus the message of Christ</p>	3
		<p>Distance: between clergy and the people.</p>	2
		<p>Anger: at wider community (media) against church</p>	2
		<p>Lack of respect in church: people talking, not genuflecting</p>	3
<p>Inequality: with regard to women priests and senior roles in the church. People expressed sorrow at the exclusion of women from the priesthood and diaconate.</p>	33	<p>Church based on rules: without Christianity.</p>	1
		<p>Non practicing parents: failing to pass on example of faith to children</p>	1
<p>Falling attendance at mass and sacraments: Decreasing faith. Faith formation and how it is being taught in schools.</p>	28		
<p>Absence of involvement of young people</p>	22		
<p>Exclusion: Of divorced people, marginalised people, LGBTQI. Young people expressed sorrow that their lifestyles excluded them from church.</p>	10		
<p>Ageing priest: and falling number of vocations.</p>	9		
<p>Married priests: exclusion of married men from the priesthood</p>	7		

Question 3: When you think of your experience of Church, what brings hope?

THE HOPES

WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?	No.	WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?	No.
<p>Pope Francis's approach will build a compassionate, inclusive, loving Church: The Synodal process was positively received. Inclusion of non-practicing Catholics brought joy as did reaching out to all faiths. His leadership on matters of migrants, war and climate change brought great hope. The Pope's willingness to ask and answer questions provided much hope.</p>	31	<p>Openness to change among the faithful: There is a desire for change among the faithful and substantial numbers want to be involved.</p>	4
<p>A new type of humble, listening and loving Church: moving away from rules and fear to a Church of openness, sharing and freedom to speak out. Becoming a Servant Church with emphasis on service to the community and those in need rather than a Church focused on services. A kinder church. A Church practicing the teachings of Christ and the emergence of basic Christian communities. Hope for a more mindfulness/meditative approach, rather than ritualistic</p>	15	<p>Reluctance to admit religious beliefs:</p> <p>Mass and Church services continues to be available: in our communities.</p>	3 3
<p>Inclusion of the laity in the survival of the Church: great hope sprung from the immense contribution of volunteers of all ages during the pandemic. Lay people are leading daily rosary for Ukraine. There was a sense that the Church could be revived through people power and that more discerning, less accepting laity would benefit the Church.</p>	16	<p>Clergy: the tireless dedication of existing clergy brought hope as did the ongoing dedication of retired priests who continue to give invaluable service. The addition of non-Irish priests provide great hope and enrich the experience of Church.</p> <p>Parents continuing to seek sacraments for their children: even those who attend non-denominational schools.</p>	4 2
<p>Inclusion of youth: very special mention was made of hopes for inclusion of youth who still seek God and follow different routes to find Him. Hope was expressed that young people could be encouraged to volunteer in social justice work where their natural goodness and social values</p>	14	<p>Continued practice of Church funerals: gives hope of the promise of life after death and the opportunity to be an inclusive, caring, loving and comforting Church.</p> <p>St. Brigid's Day Bank Holiday: hope can be drawn from the inclusion of an extra bank holiday chosen by the secular world on the feast of St. Brigid.</p> <p>Acknowledgement of past wrongs: brings hope</p> <p>Changes in hierarchy: hope of seeing a change with Bishops participating in the community rather than being aloof and distant from it.</p>	3 1 2 1

<p>can be captured. There was hope that the success of the Church's inclusion of youth up to 12 years of age could focus on being extended into adulthood.</p>		<p>Nuns as a resource: The 16 orders in our community are definitely a resource that should be embraced in terms of helping people practice and maintain their faith</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Belief and faith in God: remain strong despite Catholics not practicing</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>Eschatological events: now taking place</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Belief in power of prayer: and prayer warriors remains very strong. Praying the rosary and devotion to the saints still exists.</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>No hope: participants expressed feelings of "no hope" and "not hopeful". Another said "poor" hope and a lack of support for the great Pope Francis</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>Women priests: hope was expressed for the inclusion of women priests and acknowledgement of the immense dedication of women within the parish</p>	<p>8</p>		
<p>Missionary work is valued: as is heroic work done by the likes of Peter McVerry Trust, Focus Ireland, Capuchin Day Center and Sr. Concilio's addiction center.</p>	<p>5</p>		

Question 4: When you think of your experience of Church, what brings fear or anxiety?

THE FEARS

WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?	No.	WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?	No.
<p>Falling number of vocations: leading to lack of access to sacraments and closing churches</p> <p>That no change will happen: because of Curia, Bishops, hierarchy. Fear expressed over whether change can happen quickly enough to recapture the interest of young Catholics. Will the people's message get diluted? Is the Synod a smokescreen? The laity won't be listened to or trusted. Fear expressed that a change of Pope could stifle change.</p> <p>Youth engagement: Fear expressed over how to engage the young again. Fear expressed over religious education and faith formation in the young. Church has no relevance to young.</p> <p>Church described as 'gloomy' by young participant, with little they could relate to.</p> <p>Fearful of how hard it is to be a young catholic. Lifestyle out of sync with rules of the church</p> <p>Abuse and cover-ups: Fear over similar abuses being uncovered in St America and Africa, and good religious being 'tarred with the same brush' as offenders.</p> <p>Negative media coverage: putting young people on the wrong path. Lack of skill within church to use social media to effectively communicate with the young.</p>	<p>57</p> <p>25</p> <p>24</p> <p>11</p> <p>5</p>	<p>Rigid, conservative people: won't tolerate diverse views within church. New generation in the church of very conservative young people.</p> <p>Exclusion of LGBTQI</p> <p>No tolerance: for people of faith in wider society</p> <p>Inability of Catholic practitioners to engage in public debate: due to lack of knowledge of scripture</p> <p>Casualisation of ceremonies: Day out. Photo opportunity.</p> <p>Hell and sin: emphasised rather than Christ's message of love.</p> <p>A need to bring others to Jesus: through the sacraments, mass, Eucharistic Adoration</p> <p>Lack of attendance: at Sunday Mass</p> <p>Church will disappear: because of lack of women and married priests</p>	<p>2</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>2</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p>