



# Synod Feedback Form

NAME OF PARISH	NAME OF PASTORAL GROUPING
Saint Patrick's Skerries	Fingal
VENUE OF GATHERINGS	IN PERSON OR ZOOM
Glazed section of Church	In person
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS (1 <sup>st</sup> Gathering)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS (2 <sup>nd</sup> Gathering)
41 participants & 7 Group Leaders – one Gathering held where four topics discussed	N/A

## THE JOYS

WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?	No.	WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?	No.
<p><b><u>Times of Celebration</u></b>            Times of celebration, family events, Christenings, First Communions, Confirmations, Weddings, and even funerals.            Religious events –Daily Mass, Novenas, Christmas and Easter.            Music</p> <p><b><u>Community</u></b>            Feeling of community and connection, celebration in communal worship.            Physical sense of belonging in the church (Building), the people you meet and the interactions.            Welcoming visitors and new members to our community.</p> <p><b><u>Connection.</u></b>            Opportunities to come together in “god’s house”, to sit, pray and be at peace.            The sense of belonging to something greater.            Families participating together and strong sense of neighbourly spirit sharing and supporting.            The sense of being in a tradition of faith from childhood (personal and life of</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Our Pope is an example of one who would like/wants to embrace all issues openly whether popular or not.</li> <li>○ Pope Francis calling this Synod.</li> </ul>	

church) to adulthood – that is shared between us.

The introduction of the webcam during COVID meant you could attend mass in other parishes/countries.

**Reflection**

A place to go to quietly reflect and pray.

A Place of peace and quietness.

Sharing experiences and reflections with others who are inspired by the gospel

Spending quiet peaceful time in church.

Building/being with god, listening to god.

**Youth Involvement**

To see young people involved in liturgy.

While the younger generation are not seen as much, is comforting to see they do visit the church to light a candle.

**Liturgy & Sacraments**

Sacraments – Baptism (welcoming new life. God joining children to his divine family.

Communion – receiving Jesus own flesh.

Reconciliation: God always willing to forgive.

Church services: hearing the word of god, sermons, music

Getting words of insight into scripture at mass at homilies at mass.

Music at liturgy brings an awareness of god’s love.

Going to mass receiving the Eucharist. In joy of adoring Jesus in blessed sacrament.

Singing with and listening to others sing joyfully.

Word of god, outreaching to poor and vulnerable in society – justice and peace

Faith in god/mass/scriptures, rather than the institution as it is

The sense of being in a tradition of faith from childhood (personal and life of church) to adulthood – that is shared between us.

We are all made in god’s image. Trying and eventually seeing god in others is a real source of god.

<p><b><u>Faith and Prayer</u></b>  Adoration  Peace of Christ that knows no comparison  Facilitating the encounter of people with Jesus through worship, praise, prayer ministry, adoration nights.  That the gospel value continues to have meaning in our world in spite of the many challenges it encounters  People of faith who develop our faith (priest and nuns, brothers and lay).  Joy in seeing someone's life being turned around by the thoughtfulness of others ie god working through them even though they might not see themselves as belonging to church.</p>			
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### THE SORROWS

<b>WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?</b>	<b>No.</b>
<p><b><u>Inclusiveness</u></b>  The churches views on the LGBTQ+ community.  How much of the richness of catholic faith is missed out on though lack of education, inclusivity and openness.  Not inclusive of women participating in major roles.  Young people moving further away.  Churches view on divorce  Anglican priests being allowed/welcomed into the church, but priests are not allowed to marry.  Priests not allowed to be married.  Church not open to move with society  Exclusion of people from communion  The lack of involvement of many young people in the church and their negative attitudes to Catholicism.  When people judge others for not "coming to church" when the problem is that the church doesn't explore ways of reaching out.  Bias or at least perceived bias between parish and non-parish school in relation to preparation for sacraments</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The lack of parish structure in an era of bachelor male priests (few of them) and the potential of a dynamic parish structure which should welcome the lost generation under 60 years of age.</li> <li>○ The way the media bombards the church and is disrespectful.</li> <li>○ The Wealth of the church and in particular the wealth of Rome.</li> <li>○ Peoples input to previous Synod ignored.</li> <li>○ The lack of enthusiasm for the synod by some bishops and clergy and laity.</li> </ul>	

The Vatican continues to insist on the rule of celibacy for those with a vocation to be a priest. This is a cruel cross to place on so many men. It is not doctrine; it is discipline and could be removed at once.

**Attendance**

Dwindling numbers and in particular the fall-off in the numbers of young families attending Sunday mass and other sacraments.

**Vocations**

Lack of vocations to priesthood and religious life.

**Faith Decreasing**

Lack of opportunity to share faith on a personal level with others in the parish and in particular the younger generations.

**Scandals**

The damage the scandals within the church over the years. Which has had a significant impact on the church and its teachings. The disgrace brought on the many by the few.

**The Church Teachings**

Too many rules concerning participation.

## THE HOPES

WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?	No.	WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?	No.
<p><b><u>This Synod</u></b>  Pope's Invitation to speak  That people will be heard  Chance to share/talk  That views expressed at gatherings will be heard  Synod and consultation  Synod – a church that listens</p> <p><b><u>Church</u></b>  That the church will modernise  Growing ecumenism  Mistakes of the past rectified  That Bishops will listen to laity  That church can abandon unnecessary rules  That the church will survive  Church will be a community, not an institution  That the church can attract young people/will listen to them  Openness in society be reflected in church  Too 'quiet' for young people</p> <p><b><u>Pope Francis</u></b>  That he is progressive  He recognises that change is necessary  Church in good hands</p> <p><b><u>Young people/Youth</u></b>  Hope in their drive &amp; energy, love, kindness  Involvement in groups eg Youth 2000  Power and strength of young people  That they be asked to participate  That church will listen to young people  Talk their talk  Go where they are – social media</p> <p><b><u>Prayer</u></b>  Hope in the word of God  Hope because we pray together  Hope for improved prayer life  Hope in the power of prayer</p> <p><b><u>Faith</u></b>  Hope in goodness and strength of Faith  Recent scandals have caused people to re-examine their faith/beliefs</p> <p><b><u>Laity</u></b>  Greater role as numbers of clergy fall</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No great hope</li> <li>○ No change in view</li> <li>○ Approach to the Synod not uniform – a missed opportunity - Youth not represented</li> <li>○ Applicants for priesthood in parishes not seminaries – in p/t college studies</li> <li>○ Absence of personal faith in next generation</li> <li>○ Unanswered questions about the direction of church</li> </ul>	

Mass attendees fallen but those who attend want to be there

**Women**

Need for women

**Clergy**

Relieved of administrative tasks

Hope in our clergy

**New Groups/Communities**

Ember teams

Evangelisation at parish level through groups

Divine Renovation Ministries/Holy Family

Mission

Examples of church in South America

**Education**

Teachers in Primary Schools

Commitment of religious teachers

For meaningful liturgies around school events

Adult formation possible via zoom

**Holy Spirit**

Power of the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit among us

Hope in the Holy Spirit

That the Holy Spirit can 'turn this around'

**People**

God working through people

The goodness of people

Gospel values lived through daily lives

Individual practices

Hope will not die if people remain interested

**God**

God's promise to be with us always

That God is love

**Future**

That parish teams will be restored post Covid

Church based in smaller groups

Smaller more intimate church

That change not limited by man's efforts

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### THE FEARS

WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?	No.	WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?	No.
<p><b><u>Unwillingness of church to change</u></b>  Opposition to change within the church  Unchanging nature of institutional church  That we, the church, are not open to change  Action will not happen fast enough  That we do not learn from our mistakes  That the church will not listen to spirit of change/to suit change in society  Same approach despite need for change  That church will not listen to the spirit of change  That nothing will change/coming generations lost to the church  Window-dressing changes  Old habits die hard' - the grip on power is/must be difficult to loosen  Too much control at the top - communication is 'downwards'  Another generation in the church without any change  Refusal of proper accounts will deter people from donating  Pray, pay and obey will remain the norm  Hierarchy, who are bachelors, continue to rule on marriage when their knowledge is academic  Power and control will continue and destroy the people of God due to an inability to listen  Those who manage the church as an institution will not make adjustments to change and allow the church to move forward</p> <p><b><u>The Sacraments/Churches</u></b>  No priests  That churches will be closed  No Mass. No priests to bury the dead</p> <p><b><u>Curia</u></b>  Needs to change  Become more inclusive  Is too dominant/will resist reform  That ordained clergy will continue to work in the Curia when lay people could be called upon</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Are we able to change?</li> <li>○ What is the future of church?</li> <li>○ Hope springs eternal</li> <li>○ Be not afraid, I am always with you</li> <li>○ Where two or three are gathered together, I am in their midst</li> <li>○ Money used for new vestments when new Pope is elected</li> </ul>	

**Young people**

Nothing to attract young people  
Dearth of youth participation  
Teaching inadequate to attract youth  
Church not reaching out to young people  
That young people will not return to church  
That young people are dropping out  
Inability to impart God's word to young people  
Young people are attending shrines e.g. Knock and in Europe  
Fear that we lose the opportunity to embrace the youth in all the services of the church and hearing how they want to see the church in their time

**Hope**

Personal loss of hope  
Loss of hope for the future of church  
Hope that we are heading to a new beginning

**Relevance of church**

Anxiety for our children's future  
Loss of relevance in 21st century  
That we become apathetic

**Losing the message**

Distortion of the Gospel  
That church will lose authentic voice for the marginalised  
New lifestyles/new words and failure to reflect Christ  
Losing God  
Staying quiet to fit into society  
We end up with no church if nothing is done  
Adapt not change core teaching  
Irrelevance to most people if change does not come  
That we forget the command of Jesus -  
To love  
"The truths of faith do not change, but the way they are presented must change"  
John XXIII.  
Loss of traditions and the sacraments

**Laity**

Fear of equality, of laity, women conducting services  
That laity will not be involved in leading/animating groups - can be involved in funeral/baptisms  
That clerics will continue to block laity leading a worship of readings and prayer



As the older generation dies, that upcoming generations will not have the opportunity to know the love of God.

**Clergy**

Importing clergy not a solution  
Bringing in foreign priests maintains the status quo  
No one to take over from retired clergy  
Importing clergy while ignoring laity  
Are threatened by lay people/not accepted  
That some clergy in some parts of the world are abusive  
Little time for prayer/study/renewal – will lead to burn out  
That homilies do not reflect what is in the readings  
Fear of the future - no priests/current generation of mass goers passing

**Education**

Threat to education/schools – church needs access to those who want to be formed  
Formation of youth for sacraments in schools only when a generation of young people/teachers are non-believers  
No action to deliver faith education for adults – eg via zoom

**Vocations**

Scarcity of vocations  
No vocations/no youth involvement  
No priests – no sacraments  
Celibacy will remain – vocations will be lost

**What is missing**

Courage  
Leaders to evangelise  
Plan of action in Ireland to show the way  
Not able to put God into chats over coffee  
Parents, priests to have the courage to share their faith

**Married priests/Women priests**

Why do we not have women priests?  
Do we need married priests?  
Need for a succession plan

**Holy Spirit**

That we will stop listening  
Those who do not attend sacraments miss out on grace of the Holy Spirit

That we are not open to the Holy Spirit being a guide for us to a new sense of faith community and a light to the world.

**Our views**

That views at Gatherings will not be heard

That this is just a tick-box exercise

**Parish specific**

No forum within the parish to discuss difficulties, way things are done/might be done

One meeting only - voices being guillotined

**Threats**

Materialism

That church does not use its resources to tackle suffering

Loss of government respect towards church

The derogatory way people speak about the church

That over-conservative church decisions will alienate people from the church

That Theologians and Scripture Scholars will not be listened to by the hierarchy.

This moment of hope lost through inertia

That homilies now being preached will not be diluted to suit the ears of the congregation and for them not to be offended

That the church does/would exclude people from sacraments/participation

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## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

### WHAT THEMES ARE EMERGING FROM THE GATHERING?

- There is a need for change.
- The generation impact is going to determine the future of the church.
- The scandals have had a great impact.
- There is a strong sense of community and faith is strong amongst those who believe
- People are willing to talk, share ideas and want to be heard.
- Media plays a part in the how people perceive the church and its teachings.
- Deep anxiety about the imminent non availability of the sacraments due to lack of clergy
- General recognition that the current generation of Mass goers may be the last
- Disconnect between being a practicing Catholic and qualities of goodness, kindness and much more, among the baptised.

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

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<b>SIGNED</b>	<b>DATE</b>
<b>Stephanie Bourke</b>	<b>13 April 2022</b>
<b>Liz Maguire-Stubbins</b>	<b>13 April 2022</b>