



Synod Feedback

NAME OF PARISH	NAME OF PASTORAL GROUPING
Sacred Heart, Sruleen	Listening Gathering in Sruleen Parish
VENUE OF GATHERINGS	IN PERSON OR ZOOM
Parish Church	In Person + some responses outside of gathering in writing
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	
27 Participants	

THE JOYS

When you think of your experience of Church, what brings joy?

SACRAMENTS:

- Eucharist: going to mass gives orientation for the day, Food for the Day, Mass as our Centre is joyous, Availability & frequency; Being able to watch Mass on TV; presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, Preparing Before Mass focus, importance, God is one resources in daily Living, Participant at Mass - high point - consecration is the high point, privilege to attend Mass
- Church Marriage within Regulations being able to rejoice after getting annulment - Understanding Priest
- Communion
- Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Suitable music which enhances the celebration ie Mass, Sacraments ie Holy Communion Confirmations and Marriages.

COMMUNITY/PARISH:

- Community brings joy, being a part of a wider church community, sense of belonging
- Keeping in touch with others, communicating with parishioners, opportunity to help others, groups gives satisfaction & fulfilment, Tradition - passing the handing on traditions, ministering to each other within the parish community.
- great support from Church during crisis gave great joy
- Pilgrimages
- Provided a place for sanctuary - quietness / calm, Having the church within our community is a great blessing
- The presence of community and Jesus in that.

FAITH:

- Fact that you believe in God, have faith, Experiencing faith rather than being taught, making visits to the blessed sacrament - time to be with God
- Sense of the quiet and sacred from Mass, It's not about the building, it's what happens inside

- A Freedom to practice our faith, Priest explaining all readings and gospel, Closer to God in church
- Prayer presence in His house, Promise of the next, Desire to practise particularly in difficult times
- You take something personal away, Catholic Faith brings joy, Faith beyond this world
- Adoration which there isn't nearly enough of, good and relevant homilies and being part of groups.

MINISTRY:

- Music Ministry uplifts, it is like a prayer
- Awareness of the various needs of people, Outreach Services, charitable causes that the church promotes
- The rapid and heartfelt response from Ireland to the plight of the refugees fleeing from their homeland was generous and I am sure the RED CROSS who travelled to Ukraine with food, clothing, and medicine were warmly welcomed. Millions of Euros from Ireland have poured into Ukraine to relieve the suffering of that nation. Here the refugees will be helped to settle in Ireland.

YOUTH:

- Young People proclaiming the word
- First Communion Children well prepared.
- Joyful that parents are still choosing to bring their children to the sacraments.

TEACHING:

- The homilies from the priests are well prepared and this gives me a spiritual orientation for the day.

THE SORROWS

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

CHURCH TEACHING & MESSAGE:

- See God as God of fear not Love, People have not come to know Jesus as your personal Saviour
- people don't listen or know Jesus. Holy Spirit is Alive, Lack of nurturing in the faith.
- Interpretation of rules - responses differently - don 't sing off the same song sheet.
- Strictness of church, Too Many Rigid Rules E.G Preparing Marriage Preparation courses.
- Falling attendances, general slippage as a Church, lack of visibility of young People
- There are people who don't know what they are missing - we are almost a hidden group within society.
- asking: what keeps people going ??
- The church needs to focus on showing the love of God to people outside the church, no one is listening to the church trying to have a moral authority so it's counter productive. Until people know the love of god they won't want to know anything the church has to say.

CHURCH INSTITUTION & LEADERSHIP:

- Innocent Priests tarred with the same Brush.
- Not enough study done in church to get people back to church.

- Constant movement of Priests, lack of priests, religious vocations - do we need missionaries from the missions we established in years gone by?
- Relevance of church today
- When Priests can't marry & continue Religious Life
- Divisions in Church

IRISH CHURCH & SCANDALS:

- Fear of Church + Priest from Long Ago.
- Scandals of the Church were awful. - The Church, Bishops and Pope did not react well to being found out. This should never have happened, lack of honesty among church Leaders.
- The generations which have been lost to the church as a reaction to the misdeeds of a minority of priests.
- Lack of respect for church & the Institution and criticism seem as a right.
- Lost so many to other faiths
- The pain of cover ups in the abuse of children

FAMILY:

- Our confirmation | Communion is a Service but not a knowledge of God - need to do more in the home
- No follow up from parents after sacraments
- Parents not passing on faith.
- Children / Parents don't know how to act in church.
- If parents do not pass on the values, children grow up a vacuum

FAITH:

- Decline in faith
- Secular society - moral standard - what are our basic standards?
- Lack of living faith
- Praying for peace in Ukraine

WOMEN IN THE CHURCH:

- Role of Women in Church. Lack of involvement
- Male hierarchy even though women do most of the work

SACRAMENTS:

- Making couples in second relationships aware of their options regarding annulment & information & simplifying the Process.
- People see Sacraments as a Right of Passage.
- When we were unable to attend Mass and the Sacraments due to the pandemic. The fact that we still do not have Confession available. Lack of guidance in important matters. Also people talking in the Church without reverence for the sacredness of where they are.

YOUTH:

- How to keep young people involved?
- Young People have no interest in Modern Day church.

COMMUNITY:

- All the good people who have died particularly over the last 2 years.
- The suffering of the people in Ukraine at this moment.
- Suffering of fellow christians Ukraine

HOMOSEXUALITY:

- Exclude so many people eg, LGBTi+., So many voices are not being heard.
 - Some people in the church who like to judge and undermine others.
- I've had several disagreements and arguments with people who think they can tell me how to live, comments such as my relationship shouldn't be shown in front of kids in my family etc. and along these lines, and the ones who skirt around it and try to tell you in a nice way that being gay is wrong is even worse, while it comes from a small few it's upsetting thankfully I've got a big mouth and thick skin so I can put up with it but I know many who would not return if they came across people like this, for me it's a case of "close the doors to the kingdom of god to others, the doors will not be open for you".

THE HOPES

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

FAITH:

- The Holy Spirit working to bring Reconciliation with everyone, every religion, etc.
- The world will come back to Peace through Prayer.
- People coming to our Church during the Pandemic gave Hope for the future - some people who hadn't been to Church in years came
- Peoples faith - wherever 2 people are gathered in my name
- God hears all prayers.
- Hand it over to God - Cry Out to Him. - God love of God - God is hope/ Our future, Let God Be! - This is our hope for our church of God.
- Hope we all get converted back to our ways
- Faith in each person is a gift from God & even though it may lie dormant it can be revived
- Do more adoration , more faith groups to learn about the faith, in some parishes try to have a more Charismatic church it's not for everyone but even some of us Catholics love a bit of Charismatic worship. Teach more about the love of God, being more inviting, less hierarchical.

MINISTRY:

- People will follow the example of others. eg. Volunteers, Ministers etc.
- Some good people/ leaders out there doing good
- Work of Saint Vincent de Paul - Action , Outreach to others SVP. Fundraising for People In Need.
- Response to Ukraine, welcome, give opportunities [MINISTRY]
- Spirit of Reaching out to others.
- Many people are actually involved in different ministries.

CHANGING CHURCH:

- Church is opening up & becoming more accepting
- Bring Married former priest back into the Church
- Clergy: Wonderful priests, Pope Francis - A Voice of the prophet - creative - lives his faith, Archbishop of Dublin prepared & active Dermot Farrell
- The leadership of Pope Francis is outstanding. He is not only for the Catholic Church but for the whole world with his outreach and participation in many Ecumenical services.

- Not a huge amount but there's huge potential, but I think closing at least half the churches in Ireland would be a great start, focus on trying to have decent communities and groups in the ones that are being kept, with the proceeds of all the land sales do the following:

1. invest and update core churches that will be fit for the next 50 years (it may only be 20% of the current churches)
2. Put money aside for future church expenses
3. Put a good lump into helping sort out the homeless / addiction and or other charitable causes crisis in Ireland.

HOPE:

- We can be a sign /symbol of hope
- Everybody is looking for hope in their future.
- Looking after & caring for each other during Pandemic bringing HOPE
- Hope that the Church will change & Wake up
- Meeting tonight - cause for hope !
- It gives hope that gatherings like these will, and dialogue will continue.
- We will listen to everyone and love more.

COMMUNITY:

- A lovely parish community
- generosity of people.
- The will to help others will keep the Church going
- Questions about the Church eg tonights meetings will keep church going

CHURCH TEACHING & MESSAGE:

- Hope - Return of the faithful. Get to know Jesus. TRUST HIM.
- Catholic newspapers provide an alternative to the internet and news media
- Pope Francis' speeches and homilies are widely used and appreciated for their simplicity and their wisdom.
- Priests / Religions should be allowed more freedom to Live - this should be hope for future callings into church.

WOMEN:

- Women Deacons - hope they will be allowed back into church
- Women priests. Women should be called to the priesthood.

YOUTH:

- To see some of the youth proclaim the Word of God on Sunday is a very positive sign. There is hope.
- The Young people are the future of the Church. When I see young people who have a deep faith and are proud of it and are actively involved in passing it on to others.

FAMILY:

- Number of boys and girls who want to make their confirmation.

THE FEARS

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

CHURCH INSTITUTION:

- Diminishing numbers - is our local church sustainable. Financial resources, clergy
- We have relied on the priest in the past - more scope for lay people.
- Hierarchy has too much power & influence, No one is listening
lack of churches + priests to say Mass
- Gives/ brings fear: Shortage of PRIESTS | Deacons, such as Women.
- Changes in Church are too slow
- Instead of church leaders we should have Shepherds instead
- That nothing will come of what we have done here tonight [
- How transparent will the Report be judging on previous experiences of Synods etc.
- The Church won't deal with current challenges.
- Apathy among Priests & Religious
- Moving Back To old Regime
- The fact that many priests are not prepared to truly lead their flock. It seems to me that they take the easy way out in order to be liked/accepted by their congregations. They do not want to "rock the boat" so to speak by talking about the "deeper issues".

CHURCH TEACHING & MESSAGE:

- Emphasis on Holy Bread instead of the Real presence of Jesus
- Not understanding the Gospel, Can a Priest Explain the Gospel?
- Sinners/ Confession - brings + causes fear
- Number of people who have left
- Our Church closing due to small numbers / Lack of priest
- A Clerical Church - Leadership is very poor in Church eg. abortion issue.
- The fact that in a few years almost all the people in the church with me will be gone and unless change starts soon the church in Ireland faces a bleak future if almost non existent, the other fear is some young Catholics are very conservative and if the church goes down that direction again it will never entice people back. Spreading the gospel and the love of God/Jesus should be the main focus of the church.

FAITH:

- not knowing the future
- what will happen when Pope Francis dies, will everything return to old.
- will the church die when we move on & leave it to the younger generation

LAY PEOPLE:

- Empowering lay people to own the church.
- asking: what can lay people do?
- We are used to doing what we have been told by "The Priest"

SACRAMENTS:

- not to have Eucharist daily.
- Fear that sacraments will diminish
- it will not allow married priests

WOMEN:

- lack of involvement of Women
- unless Women are brought into Church it will not last

COMMUNITY

- loss of community & a sense of belonging

FAMILY:

- Lack of nurturing from Baptism on