



# Synod Feedback Form

NAME OF PARISH	NAME OF PASTORAL GROUPING
St. Anthony's Parish, Clontarf, D03 TY23	Parishioners
VENUE OF GATHERINGS	IN PERSON OR ZOOM
St. Anthony's House, Parish Centre	In Person
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS (1 <sup>st</sup> Gathering)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS (2 <sup>nd</sup> Gathering)
40	40

## THE JOYS

WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?	No.	WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?	No.
Sense of Community (belonging, participation, reaching out to those at home, ...)	24	Some Irish for the 10am Mass	1
		Eco awareness (Laudato Si)	1
Ritual is important (music, gatherings, sacraments, prayer, liturgies, lighting candles, ...)	19	Unexpected spiritual moments	1
		Leadership of Pope Francis	1
Developing a relationship with God (allowing God to work through me, ...)	14	Unconditional non-judgemental love of Jesus	1
When the church acts as a focus point, when good is done by the church (Crosscare, marginalised, etc...)	3	Explain Mass readings & context (scripture helps me experience Jesus,	1
Ecumenism (Interfaith, reaching out, ...)	2	End of life (support)	1
		Use of technology (Mass online, ...)	1

## THE SORROWS

WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?	No.	WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?	No.
Role of women in the church (treated as subservient, need acolytes, deacons, priests, ...)	18	Simplify the readings	1
Age profile in church (mostly elderly, few young people, ...)	18	Lack of empathy for everyday life and it's problems	1
Institutional approach (gone away from the church of Jesus' time, lack of prophetic vision (sale of Clonliffe) – selling property to the highest bidder which could be used to house the poor, existence of the Vatican and the hierarchy as a power structure, the "church" is not the church - it's the people, Church is not living the Gospel, caught up in power struggle and greed, ...)	16	Role of laypeople in the church (we do not believe we are church, role and voice of laypeople are willing and need to be heard, church is strangling lay initiative, ...)	1
Authoritarianism, Judgementalism (guilt, failure of church to uphold God's love, money has become important, clericalism, power struggle, greed, hypocrisy, ...)	15		
Abuse Scandals (erosion of trust, it's beyond belief, church not accepting responsibility, ...)	13		
Role of men in the church (married priests, lack of vocations, ...)	9		
Slow to Change (narrow-minded thinking, inflexibility of the church to read the signs of the times, failure / slow to adopt Vatican II, institution valued over the vulnerable, ...)	9		
Lack of Inclusivity (not open) (LGBTQI+, minorities, ...)	4		

## THE HOPES

WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?	No.	WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?	No.
Youth participation	18	Promote the poor and the marginalised	1
Inclusive church (needs change, people being asked to contribute, LGBTQI+, showing witness, all to be made welcome, listen to lay people, more emphasis on love, kindness, doing charitable works, ...	14	People show by the witness of their lives what that faith means	1
Renewed understanding of “church” as the “people of God” (less clericalism, more lay participation, the church needs to follow the example of Christ, hierarchy needs to change and become more responsive to the needs of the flock, ...	10	Sunday Mass can be a powerful source of hope and joy	1
		Honesty and humility of our church leaders is a hopeful sign	1
		Use of technology (webcam,	1
More women participation (priests, lectors, acolytes, bishops, ...	7		
Strengthen the local community (social issues, gatherings, ...	4		
Use of the Synodal gathering (church will be relevant, good model for listening and hearing, church is guided by the Gospel to continue, ...	4		
Open to married priests	3		
Open to change (renew, regenerate, be guided by the Gospel, ...	3		
Develop our faith more (listen to scripture, develop people with a pastoral inclusive teaching, ...	2		

## THE FEARS

WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?	No.	WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?	No.
Not being able to accommodate change (no meaningful change, concern about strong conservative voice in the church, fear of change, no action from the Synod, or input / feedback from the gatherings is watered down – tick box exercise – value gets lost in the synthesis, ...	17	Persecution of those who articulate views central to Gospel values	1
		Lack of religion in the schools	1
		Intolerance in civic (political) circles for the legitimate voice of the church	1
		Reluctance to follow the movements of the Holy Spirit	1
Reduction in church services (losing lay people and priests, less belief in the need for Mass, disposal of places of worship, ...	12	Fear that forgiveness and acceptance lacking in those alienated from the church will continue to be used as a reason for not participating	1
Role of women (they are marginalised, need ordination of women, ...	9	The Synod process is too narrow – an online survey could be used as well	1
Young people (losing them, need to meet them where they are at, help them find joy, ...	9	Fear of reversal of Pope Francis' policies when he is gone	1
Lack of faith development (reluctance to follow the movements of the Holy Spirit, ...	7	Role of lay-people (what supports can be given, train them for different ministries, ...	1
Lack of inclusion (LGBTQI+, ...	5	Our lay voices are not being heard	1
Church will become irrelevant (will die out, ...	3		
Judgementalism	2		
There is no church leadership inspired by Christ (society will reject church in favour of a less structured path,	2		
Married priests	2		

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

### WHAT THEMES ARE EMERGING FROM THE GATHERING?

Change and inclusion of all kinds is required in the wider definition (not just in relation to sexuality).

A desire for the church to see and be seen – a “leading group” promoting the poor, marginalised, and those discriminated against, etc.

Encourage diversity and variety in liturgy and ritual – it gives people comfort.

There is comfort in the leadership of Pope Francis. He is encouraging people to stick with the faith, and that he is listening to them.

Faith development needs to be continuous. Many are still operating out of “school” faith.

We are still reeling from the child sexual abuse scandals, and nothing has explained why it happened in the context of church.

Church needs to have a different model of priesthood. It needs to be inclusive (women, married men, etc.) and also to develop the role of the laity in the church. We (laypeople and religious) are the church.

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

It's about being patient, allowing the Holy Spirit to do its work –  
*“There is a crack, a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in (Leonard Cohen).*

This is a time for deep reflection – where we have come from – where we are now – and where we are going – it's a long journey.

Get back to basics – “Love God and love your neighbour”, “He who is without sin, cast the first stone”, “See those Christians, how they love one another”, - if we all practised this, it would bring about change.

There is a need to purge the church of things that are not relevant in living the message of Christ.

SIGNED	DATE
Joseph McDonagh Olga McCarrick	23 April 2022