



# Synod Feedback Form

NAME OF PARISH	NAME OF PASTORAL GROUPING
St Fintan's Parish Sutton	Howth/Fingal
VENUE OF GATHERINGS	IN PERSON OR ZOOM
Parish Hall	In Person
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS (1 <sup>st</sup> Gathering)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS (2 <sup>nd</sup> Gathering)
85 (Only One Gathering)	N/A

## THE JOYS

WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?	No.	WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?	No.
- Community	23	- Sign of peace	2
- Sacrament of Communion	17	- Tradition of Church	2
- Music	10	- Absolution	2
- Children and Families	7	- Unity	2
- God	7	- Inclusivity	2
- Celebration of sacraments (marriage, baptisms, reconciliation etc.)	5	- Webcam	2
- Sermons/Homilies	4	- Synodal gathering	2
- Celebration of sacraments	3	- The Mass	2
- Ministries (involvement in)	3	- Christian Nature of people	2
- Participation at mass (worldwide)	3	- Infinite goodness/forgiveness of God	2
- Charity	3	- Faith in Christ	1
- The Liturgy	3	- Consolation from intercession of favourite saints	1
		- Spending time together in prayer	1
		- Family Mass	1
		- People's Empathy	1
		- Pastoral Ministry Meaningful	1
		- Being back together	1

## THE SORROWS

WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?	No.	WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?	No.
- Scandals/Cover-ups/Handling of/Refusal to face up to	19	- Mistreatment of victims	2
- Lack of young people	17	- No retreats	1
- Misogyny/Lack of women	14	- Reduced mass schedule	1
- Church stuck in a rut/refusing to adapt	14	- Non reporting of abusers at all levels to Police	1
- Reduced attendance at mass	6	- Hostility of confessors	1
- Lack of vocations	6	- Financial irregularities at the Vatican	1
- Society has turned it's back on God and Faith	6	- Emphasis on authority at the expense of charity	1
- Aged hierarchy/Curia	4	- Bishop's decisions not subject to appeal	1
- Child abuse	4	- Vestments of Cardinals	1
- Abuse of power	3	- Drowning out of words of the offertory by hymn singing	1
- Exclusion of Gay/Divorced people/single mothers (unchristian treatment of same)	3	- Negativity and lack of compassion towards those on IVF journeys	1
- The Media	3		
- Lack of apology for cover ups	3		
- Defensive clerical church in respect of offenses against lay people	3		

## THE HOPES

WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?	No.	WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?	No.
- The faithful are being consulted in this Synodal process – Hope The Church will listen and that Pope Francis can bring about positive change	24	- More involvement of women	2
- Hope in The Lord/Holy Spirit that They will guide and take care of The Church	19	- Church groups	2
- Pope Francis is an inspiration/source of hope	10	- Quality of priest very good	2
- Hope for a bigger role for the Laity	10	- Prayer/Honesty/Remain positive	2
- The goodness of young people	8	- Sacraments/Easter/Christmas – still important to many	2
- Renewed emphasis on listening, social justice, compassion, empathy, kindness and charity	7	- Solid core of Catholics in every parish	2
- Longevity of The Church	6	- Wednesday morning prayer group	2
- Sense of community	4	- Quality over quantity	1
- Christian spirit alive in the parish	3	- Better governance/accountability	1
- A simpler, more humble Church standing up for what is right and the poor	3	- Questioning young people	1
- More vocations to the priesthood	3	- More mature approach to religion	1
- Married priests with families	3	- The greatness of eternal life	1
- Youth groups	3	- Knowing our clergy	1
- Involvement of children at Mass	3	- Younger candidates for Pope	1
		- Hearing good sermons	1
		- Charity shown at collections	1
		- Maintaining Catholic education system	1
		- Faith	1
		- Communication	1
		- Respect for on another brings hope	1
		- More modern hymns at Mass	1
		- More child-centred Masses	1

## THE FEARS

WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?	No.	WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?	No.
- Lack of new priests/vocations	27	- Priests overworked	2
- Closure of churches/demise of The Church	15	- Lack of families at mass	2
- Inability of The Institutional Church to listen/change	14	- Having to go to confession when young	1
- Dwindling numbers at Mass	12	- Loss of confession	1
- Lack of young People	12	- Make celibacy optional	1
- Married priests/Women priests/Laity	12	- Need for more spiritualism	1
- The Church has lost relevance to a secular society	9	- Not sharing in communication of probs	1
- No Fears as Christ will look after the Church	5	- Some children not being baptised	1
- Future generations will not go to Mass	4	- Media negativity	1
- Narrow/right wing/too many structures	4	- Silencing good priests/theologians	1
- Get back to basics	4	- Moving away from the truth	1
- Fear of a major split after Synod	4	- More authentic view of church	1
- Loss of religious teaching in schools	3	- Hell Fire	1
- Curia won't make necessary changes	3	- Further scandals	1
- No outreach to disenfranchised (Gay)	3	- Update the prayer/language at mass	1
- Nothing will change after the Synod	3	- Foreign priests being integrated	1
- Sermons too long/rambling	3	- Feeling of them (clergy) v's Us	1
		- The role/function of Bishops to their flock	1
		- So many changes in the church	1
		- Attending funerals	1
		- Meeting clergy as attended a diocesan college	1

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

WHAT THEMES ARE EMERGING FROM THE GATHERING?
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The sense of community in the Church is very important.</li> <li>2. Fear for the lack of vocations and for the future of the church. The Church needs to be more inclusive of women and the laity moving forward.</li> <li>3. The need for change in the church. The church needs to listen to the people and embrace and welcome all, regardless of their gender or sexual orientation.</li> <li>4. Hurt over the scandals and cover ups by the Church over the years and the subsequent mishandling of the scandals by the hierarchy.</li> <li>5. Fear over the lack of youth involvement in the Church.</li> <li>6. The Church needs to get back to the basics of love and inclusivity.</li> </ol>

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

We feel that the Holy Spirt is indicating that the Church needs to change. The Church needs to be of the people and for the people and needs to get back to that basic message of Jesus. The Church needs be more inclusive of everyone, the marginalised, the disenfranchised (including the LGBTQ community) and needs to be more compassionate and understanding of all, including people on IVF journeys, divorced people getting remarried in the church and anyone who doesn't fit the percieved "norm" of the Church. The Church needs to stop being judgemental. We are ALL people of God, made and created in His image. The Church is the people and needs to be a Church of the people and FOR ALL PEOPLE.

This is the fundamental message given to us by Jesus during His time on Earth "Love one another as I have loved you".

<b>SIGNED</b>	<b>DATE</b>
Ciara O'Tiarnaigh John Lennon	03.05.2022