



Synod Feedback Form

NAME OF PARISH	NAME OF PASTORAL GROUPING
Parish of Balally, Dublin 16	Bray Deanery
VENUE OF GATHERINGS	IN PERSON OR ZOOM
2 in Scouts Den Balally 1 in Parish Centre	In person and written responses
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS (1 st Gathering)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS (2 nd Gathering)
40	37

THE JOYS

WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?	No.	WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?	No.
Faith: Experience of faith hope and belief The Spirit is moving Bible studies for lay people Personal relationship with God	5 2 2 2	Work of priests and lay people on the missions Joy Prayerful people. Devotion to the Sacred Heart and Our Lady. The Crib at Christmas, Easter Garden, and side altars and statues or holy pictures, to remind us that we are in a sacred space.	1
Leadership: Leadership of Pope Francis Leadership in Dublin Diocese Women's role in Church Services Priests that inspire Meaningful role for lay members Joy at visits of Popes JP2 and Francis	4 1 1 1 1 1	The mercy and forgiveness of God for my many sins Hearing the Word of God spoken with Love and Reverence from the altar Faith-filled podcasts	
Liturgy and Sacraments: Joy of sacraments/and liturgies Choir and singing Lay participation Holy Donut Sunday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. participating in the Eucharist inspiring homilies	20 3 2 1 1 2 1	Very little at this stage. Joy and the Catholic Church don't sit comfortably in the same sentence.	
Community:			

Sense of belonging	22		
Involvement in parish	4		
Quietness in church	1		
Believing in the spirit	1		
My Spiritual home - central to my experience of God	1		

THE SORROWS

WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?	No.	WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?	No.
Leadership and Structures		Women can't give a homily	1
Poor leadership in Church	11	Women can't read the Gospel	1
Domination of male hierarchy	11	Spiritual formation of young people	1
No follow through for Vatican 2	4	Young people not aware of prayers	1
Non teaching of sexuality and acknowledgement of sexuality in life	4	Lack of daily Mass	1
Power	1	Cronyism and loneliness	1
		Absence of religious education in schools	1
Married Clergy	8	Many people do not need God in their lives	1
Priests should be free to marry		Church should on ton abortion and gay marriage	1
Scandals and abuse in the Church	13	Church gives mixed messages	1
Sadness at the management and handling of abuse scandals	3	Sadness/Disappointment?	
Vocations:	2	Hopefully, the Holy Spirit will guide us to start again.	
No planning for reduced vocations			
Poor formation for priests			
Role of Women in the Church	6	Remaining catholic guilt, the mistakes some clergy have made and not admitted	
No dialogues on the role of women	8	The Church is failing to listen to the Zeitgeist of our age and more vitally it does not listen to the thinking of its members'. The loss of great clerics, theologians and religious people, who are silenced, censured or side-lined by the Vatican because they are critical of the interpretation of the official Vatican policies. The promotion of ultra conservative bishops, who are opposed to Vatican 2 thinking and thus keeping the upper echelon of the Vatican opposed to real change and the prospect of having a progressive pope (s) impossible in the foreseeable future.	
Role of women downplayed	2		
Allow the ordination of women	1		
language which excludes women is theologically wrong and offensive	9		
Young People:			
Lack of young people in church	2		
Apathy of young people towards the Church	1		
the Church has to really reach out to young people	1		
Children need to be taught the basics of Catholicism,	3		
	3		
Church not inclusive:			
Does not allow for meaningful participation for LGBT+	2		
Use of non-inclusive language	1		
Liturgies:	1		

<p>Poor homilies Lack of sacredness and devoutness during Holy Mass. An absence of solid teaching of right and wrong during homilies Sacrament of Reconciliation undervalued</p> <p>Sexuality: Absence of education and inclusion of sexuality</p> <p>Environment the tardy attention given to the vital ecological issue.</p> <p>Faith Formation Shaky foundations in the faith, are evident everywhere</p>	<p>2</p> <p>4</p> <p>1</p> <p>2</p>	<p>In my experience of the Catholic Church the following things brought disappointment.</p> <p>My local priest publicly expressing his support for his parishioners who voted to support removal of the equally balanced right to life of pre-born babies in the recent Referendum.</p> <p>The poor quality of my parish in supporting me, a simple sinful parent, to form my children in the Knowledge of God</p> <p>The lack of initiative/drive to encourage people to know and love God</p> <p>The de-prioritisation of the celebration of Mass at my parish</p> <p>The focus on big, communal/secular 'celebrations' for Holy Communion and Confirmation</p> <p>We insist on preparing children for the Sacraments and then we never see them again. Confirmation is just a rite of passage from junior to secondary school. The way the celebration of Christ Crucified and Risen has become so drab and ritualistic. Christ's message is as relevant today as ever but that doesn't mean we have to proclaim it as was done 1000 years ago. The basic message of the Catholic Church is we are all doomed - if we are Catholics. As I understand it, the 6 Commandments of the Church are still in vogue and failure to comply is a mortal sin and condemns one to everlasting damnation. So (Covid derogation aside) if I am a Catholic and I miss Mass on a Sunday or Holiday of Obligation I am doomed. Same fate if I don't ""Fast and abstain on the days appointed"". This approach is a long way from a loving and merciful God.</p> <p>I am disappointed that the vast majority of people under 50 have been turned away from formal Catholicism but I can see why at the majority of church services I attend. It seems that joy and any modern expression of it have been banished from Church. Everything, music, readings and demeanour have to sombre, dull and frankly boring. Easter,</p>	
---	-------------------------------------	---	--

		<p>Christ's resurrection, the greatest feast in the Christian calendar is heralded as a day of great rejoicing. Instead of a most joyous celebration, the Easter Vigil is an endurance test where people sit dutifully through the chanting of Latin dirges in the dark.</p> <p>The few remaining practicing Catholics seem more concerned over trivia such as altar furniture and where people stand to address the ever-dwindling congregations than about bringing salvation to the masses. Preaching the joy of the Risen Christ is a whole different challenge in 2022 and if the men who are presiding over the demise of the Church can't see that then maybe</p>	
--	--	--	--

THE HOPES

WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?	No.	WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?	No.
Leadership			
Leadership of Pope Francis	10	Lack of vocations signifies the need for change	1
Involvement of Laypeople in ministry	5		2
women's involvement and creativity	3	More prayer	
Writings of Pope Francis	2		1
Good example of leaders		Vatican II began a journey, hope it continues	1
Young People	3		1
Young people do good things outside the church walls		That the church in Ireland will be served by priests from abroad	1
Scripture	3	Hope	
The life and death of Jesus gives hope	2	To see priests working so hard	
"Be not Afraid"	1	God is patient, and His Way, will prevail.	
"Nothing is impossible with God"	1		
"Love" is the message	2	Hope that the Holy Spirit will guide us all on the right path.	
Gospel message keeps faith alive		And that we will have the courage to hold on to the truth.	
Listening	2		
Good listening to Laity		Great sermons, Guidance, People working together	
very little to be hopeful about	3	The work of the Holy Spirit and the work of the Church Leaders who are filled with the Holy Spirit	

		Cross-parish/diocesan initiatives to maintain/build faith-in-God communities	
--	--	--	--

THE FEARS

WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?	No.	WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?	No.
Young People			
Absence of young people's involvement	17	Fear that online services will take the place of those attending in person	1
Lack of faith formation	6	The literal interpretation of scriptures can be misleading	1
There is nothing in the church for young people	1	Financial Transparency	1
Leadership/Clergy	6	Fear church will die	1
Priests should be allowed to marry	2	A sense that faith and doctrine is being watered down, to appeal to those that speak the loudest.	
Abuse of Power by clergy	2	I don't experience fear or anxiety particularly to do with the church	
Lack of Compassion	2		
Lack of Social Justice	5		
Leadership should include both men And Women	2		
Lack of priests and vocations		As I get older, the anxiety of faltering faith, the fear that I will not be able to hold on to the faith which has sustained me all of my life; losing the hope, so consoling in times of grief, that death does not have the last word.	
The current structure, approach and management is clearly not working but nothing is being done.	1		
Subservience of the laity to church authority figures is unhealthy	1		
Failure of Hierarchical structures not inclusive	8	I fear that the Church may become totally dominated by the traditionalist, conservative element and if that happens it will no longer be the Church of Jesus Christ. However, if that happens a new Church will emerge, perhaps that is God's Will after all.	
No faith formation for adults and children	1		
Too many rules and regulations .		When the Church tolerates or hides	

	<p>serious sins of its members When division is fostered and encouraged within the Church</p> <p>Ceding to the pressure/laws/means of the Civil State to betray our knowledge and love of God</p> <p>There is no life in our ceremonies. The general demise of the Church and the refusal by people in the inner sanctum to see it. There are none so blind etc</p> <p>The country is full of underused church infrastructure. It all has to be maintained at enormous cost to the dwindling church membership. I am not seeing any significant moves to rationalise the infrastructure and make it more appropriate to today's needs</p>	
--	---	--

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

WHAT THEMES ARE EMERGING FROM THE GATHERING?

Our gatherings were small but vocal and the groups interacted well and were not afraid to have their experiences heard. All the participants are active attenders at church services. We did not have any views from those who are not regularly engaged with the church. At least 86% of the participants were female.

Some of the views expressed in the small group sharing were not as strongly represented when in the participants post it notes.

- Role of women/ the lack of women in leadership positions in the church was a strong theme across the four questions. This included male dominance in decision making at hierarchy and local level.
- Leadership and the role of Pope Francis featured strongly.
- Many expressed the view that priests should be free to marry.
- Lack of involvement of young people in the church was a source of concern and acknowledgement of the good of young people.
- Church providing an identity, a sense of belonging and a spiritual home.

WHAT MIGHT THE HOLY SPIRIT BE INDICATING IN THIS?

The need for change is evident.

Lay participation in decision making at all levels in the church is needed.

The value of liturgy being well structured and relevant

The centrality of the Church in people's lives and the need to build on this.

The need for the Church to embrace the modern world and marginalised groups such as LGBT+ and change the use of outdated language

How can the church change to be relevant to the lives of young people

SIGNED	DATE
	19/4/22
	19/4/22