Synod Feedback Form

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| **NAME OF PARISH** | **NAME OF PASTORAL GROUPING** |
| St Joseph’s East Wall North Strand | Parish |
| **VENUE OF GATHERINGS** | **IN PERSON OR ZOOM** |
| **St Joseph’s House** | **In Person** |
| **NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS *(1st Gathering)*** | **NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS *(2nd Gathering)*** |
| **12** | **9** |

**THE JOYS**

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| **WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?** | **No.** | **WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?** | **No.** |
| Christian Spirituality/Resources eg Tarsus Scripture School; Manresa/meditation/mindfulness/Novena of Grace/Pilgrimage  Mass/sacraments and their benefits to us (online during Covid)  Community especially new Irish (immigrants)/friendship/Church full  God  Parish groups/ministries  Church music eg Taize/Art/Statues  Funerals/comfort/peace of mass and familiarity  Tea after mass | 7  7  8  4  3  3  4  2  2 | Eucharistic Congress Dublin  Return to Church after lockdown  Church garden/nature  Giving  People working together promoting the Christian life  Pope’s visit | 1  1  1  1  1  1 |

**THE SORROWS**

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| **WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?** | **No.** | **WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?** | **No.** |
| Empty church; poor attendance; many people not interested; so sad/terrible to see  Women are not respected by Church; hierarchy and priests all male; only ones with say in Church doctrine and organisation.  No children in Church/might be interested if encouraged | 4  2  3 | Older attendees at Church; no children  Falling number of priests  Lack of women priests  Pope Francis has a tough job  Unrealistic expectations of priests and of the Church  Priests should be more in tune with each other and avoid people making comparisons  Irish society anti Catholic Church  Children only come for First Holy Communion and Confirmation and never seen again.  People don’t believe any more  Laity have no power in Church  Church teaching on homosexuality being disordered is offensive to gay and lesbian people.  Magdalene laundries; children buried in unmarked graves; forced illegal adoptions  Clergy are no longer listened to because of their excessive doctrinal and confessional interest in sexual matters especially for women  Humanae Vitae a major obstacle for many people  Not many people at Adoration | 1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1 |

**THE HOPES**

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| **WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?** | **No.** | **WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?** | **No.** |
| Pope Francis theology/actions:  Laudato Si Environment/Climate Change; All are equal; Anti Clericalism; Inclusive towards homosexuals; Strong Christ-like leadership; inclusion; social justice: care for the poor/refugees/prisoners/ill/war areas eg Ukraine/Syria. Peace: visits to war torn areas eg Iraq.  Newcomers eg Africa, Eastern Europe: adding new blood, youth and strong faith to our parish  God is with the Church  This Synod  People in the Church: laity; nuns, priests  Church has survived many challenges up to now  Goodness of people eg during Covid lockdowns: help others; light candles/private prayer  Christian spirituality: individuals’ pathways to God/Christ and resources/organisations available to support this  Those who pray  Catholic Social Justice eg Trocaire/Crosscare/Shay Cullen/ Jesuit Refugee Service; Sr Stan; Bro Kevin; Peter McVerry etc | 8  2  2  2  2  2  2  2  2  2  2 | People who had moved away from Church returning with deeper spirituality.  Young people although not visible in the Church are full of spirit.  Those who pray/attend mass for others  Hope we can get young people to engage and take part  Sacraments  Bible/Gospels show God looks after his people  Good attendance at Gardiner St Novena of Grace recently  Diocesan Taskforce: bringing diocese infrastructure and parishes to a right-sized sustainable future in a synodal processes bringing laity with the clergy in faith.  Positive meeting other active Catholics eg diocese events; Eucharistic Congress; World Meeting of Families: sense of community and vibrancy often absent at parish level.  Many lay people more active in their faith/Church now than say 1980s.  Increased vocations and work by religious in developing countries.  Hope for more lay people to help run the parish/Church.  Gospel Choirs  ‘Priests’ TV Programme  Positive Church legacy and ongoing: education; hospitals; charities eg homelessness; | 1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1 |

**THE FEARS**

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| **WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?** | **No.** | **WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?** | **No.** |
| Devil is everywhere/evil/’bad priest’  Fear our Church close down altogether (those who lack transport will find it very difficult to get to next parish)/not financially viable/mass closure of parishes  Lack of priests/Very few vocations/use this as a force for change  Dwindling numbers/so many people losing out by not participating in the Church/2 generations missing from Church  Diocese hasn’t stepped up with cathechesis: big void in faith as a result/children and young adults know very little about Jesus and the Church  Church funerals for those for whom funeral home or crematorium (secular service) would be more suitable. Clericalism/excessive rule/dogma emphasis/Culture wars  Insufficient emphasis on social justice | 5  3  7  4  4  4  3  2  2 | Animosity (of society/media/politicians) towards Catholics today  Sacraments are more ‘rites of passage’ or class celebrations. Nothing to do with religion anymore  Fear of future and unknown  Fear young will never engage: pray; go to mass. No one making an effort to engage with them in their language and in their world  Faith pushed into private sphere only/laws outlawing expression of Catholic tenets of faith like Ashers Cake Case/’cancel’ people of faith  Legacy of scandals especially child abuse and covering it up/denying it  Lack of respect for laity, their wisdom and sensum fideii. Women know more about family than clerics for example.  Shadow of hurts and scandals not resolved  Fear for the great priests who have survived so much  Absence of a solid spirituality; replaced by nonsense/cranks  My kids know they are welcome in the church at any time  Equality of all be meaningfully acknowledged by the Church | 1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1 |

**REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

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| **WHAT THEMES ARE EMERGING FROM THE GATHERING?** |
| The gathering expressed strong support for change in pastoral care and/or presentation of church teaching  Also Pope Francis leadership on social justice; theological inclusion and Laudato Si was supported by our group.  We have hope for the future of the Church and the parish and it evokes goodwill  People value the coming together as community: Sacraments; Spiritual practice together; new Irish: there is a strong sense of ownership from parishioners towards the parish  How can we harness the energy and resources of the newcomers? How we can we reach out to them?  Despite ‘only’ appearing at Confirmation , First Holy Communion; Baptisms and Funerals these traditions are still very strong and may enable people to rejoin the Church more fully in time.  There is quite an amount of faith in the parish, even though many only come for ‘big’ occasions |

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| **WHAT MIGHT THE HOLY SPIRIT BE INDICATING IN THIS?** |
| The Holy Spirit is supporting the Synod  There is strong support for a different way of being Church including a Synodal approach  People enjoyed being consulted and gave us valuable insight, encouragement and called for change in a positive manner  The communal/community aspect of worship is essential including Sacraments; pilgrimage, various different forms of spirituality; tea after mass, and it needs to continue.  Many people who are otherwise isolated, people on the margins, find almost their only support and social contact is through the Church and faith community; ‘we’re there for them’: this may be an area for parish outreach in future  People like to connect with God in many ways eg retreats, light a candle, pilgrimage as well as the sacraments themselves |

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| **SIGNED** | **DATE** |
| Mary Price and Tom Hulton | 12 April 2022 |