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/PilgrimageMass/sacraments and their benefits to us (online during Covid)Community especially new Irish (immigrants)/friendship/Church fullGodParish groups/ministriesChurch music eg Taize/Art/StatuesFunerals/comfort/peace of mass and familiarityTea after mass | 778433422 | Eucharistic Congress DublinReturn to Church after lockdownChurch garden/natureGivingPeople working together promoting the Christian lifePope’s visit | 111111 |

**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 seeWomen 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 | 423 | Older attendees at Church; no childrenFalling number of priestsLack of women priestsPope Francis has a tough jobUnrealistic expectations of priests and of the ChurchPriests should be more in tune with each other and avoid people making comparisonsIrish society anti Catholic ChurchChildren only come for First Holy Communion and Confirmation and never seen again.People don’t believe any moreLaity have no power in ChurchChurch teaching on homosexuality being disordered is offensive to gay and lesbian people.Magdalene laundries; children buried in unmarked graves; forced illegal adoptionsClergy are no longer listened to because of their excessive doctrinal and confessional interest in sexual matters especially for womenHumanae Vitae a major obstacle for many peopleNot many people at Adoration | 111111111111111 |

**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 parishGod is with the ChurchThis SynodPeople in the Church: laity; nuns, priestsChurch has survived many challenges up to nowGoodness of people eg during Covid lockdowns: help others; light candles/private prayerChristian spirituality: individuals’ pathways to God/Christ and resources/organisations available to support thisThose who prayCatholic Social Justice eg Trocaire/Crosscare/Shay Cullen/ Jesuit Refugee Service; Sr Stan; Bro Kevin; Peter McVerry etc | 82222222222 | 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 othersHope we can get young people to engage and take partSacramentsBible/Gospels show God looks after his peopleGood attendance at Gardiner St Novena of Grace recentlyDiocesan 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 ProgrammePositive Church legacy and ongoing: education; hospitals; charities eg homelessness;  | 111111111111111 |

**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 parishesLack of priests/Very few vocations/use this as a force for changeDwindling numbers/so many people losing out by not participating in the Church/2 generations missing from ChurchDiocese hasn’t stepped up with cathechesis: big void in faith as a result/children and young adults know very little about Jesus and the ChurchChurch funerals for those for whom funeral home or crematorium (secular service) would be more suitable. Clericalism/excessive rule/dogma emphasis/Culture warsInsufficient emphasis on social justice | 537444322 | Animosity (of society/media/politicians) towards Catholics todaySacraments are more ‘rites of passage’ or class celebrations. Nothing to do with religion anymoreFear of future and unknownFear young will never engage: pray; go to mass. No one making an effort to engage with them in their language and in their worldFaith pushed into private sphere only/laws outlawing expression of Catholic tenets of faith like Ashers Cake Case/’cancel’ people of faithLegacy of scandals especially child abuse and covering it up/denying itLack of respect for laity, their wisdom and sensum fideii. Women know more about family than clerics for example.Shadow of hurts and scandals not resolvedFear for the great priests who have survived so muchAbsence of a solid spirituality; replaced by nonsense/cranksMy kids know they are welcome in the church at any timeEquality of all be meaningfully acknowledged by the Church | 1111111111111 |

**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 teachingAlso 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 goodwillPeople value the coming together as community: Sacraments; Spiritual practice together; new Irish: there is a strong sense of ownership from parishioners towards the parishHow 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 SynodThere is strong support for a different way of being Church including a Synodal approachPeople enjoyed being consulted and gave us valuable insight, encouragement and called for change in a positive mannerThe 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 futurePeople 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 |