

## On line Synod meeting on 03.02.2022

### Speaking Out

The views of the church are no longer accepted by society so it is difficult to speak out.

I feel there are many talented people in the church and so I don't volunteer

Wonderful things are probably going on in the church but I feel disconnected at the moment.

I do have ideas about how we could connect with those who are inactive or housebound but I'm not sure how to share them or with whom.

The Outreach team are wonderful but are centralised.

Sharing faith takes a lot of courage.

I'm ok on a 1:1 basis but find it too difficult in a group.

I recognise there are groups in the parish but if you are not a member it is difficult to share ideas.

The traditions are not explained to new comers, "We always do it this way!" This attitude doesn't help.

The church in the UK is much more formal.

I have been shouted down by the church, this makes me feel like the odd one out. I value social justice and all my ideas have been blocked.

Listening prayer is so important.

Please may we have some silence during the Sunday Mass, I mean after the homily or stillness after Holy Communion without music.

We need to listen to those from different cultural backgrounds and celebrate our differences.

Maybe we could have different styles of liturgical services; St Osmund's is a BUSY Church not a prayerful one.

We need to reach out ecumenically.

### Common Mission

I think we are called to be radically loving, to be more present to people not holding back but to be outward looking. Who is in need in my parish today?

I still need to find my role in the church.

I love the expression radical love we need to be church that

connects, visits takes meals if necessary listens to the young and the housebound.

To celebrate together

I go to Holy Redeemer and I feel everything is centralised at St Osmund's

We are not always as welcoming as should be.

There is a hierarchy of clergy and staff and councils! Where do fit in cleaning or on the coffee rota?

The website is a good way of evangelising.

I find it difficult to proclaim the gospel here maybe I need to pray more.

We are encouraged to get involved we have to put time aside.

There are lots of cosy groups but we need action of service in the city, joining the Listening Place.

The Mass is what keeps me going. I like a quiet celebration, not the bun feast of 9 am.

Not sure I'm need to help anywhere in the parish as I perceive others have it covered.

I have been part of liturgy, art, and readers groups but now they are efficiently covered by others.

Influence on life of Sunday Mass

### Prayer Life

The new translation irritates me

I prefer a quiet Mass

My prayer life is vital, it keeps me going, but I'm not sure it has any impact on the lives of others.

I enjoy the 9am it is joyful and having coffee after builds parish life.

We used to have Dedication Sunday when we all filled a slip with the time and gifts we were offering to the church during the coming year.

Having a liturgy group might help us to be more inclusive to all who are differently abled or have cultural differences.

Mass brings me out of myself and faith does influence my life. Prayer in Action.

We should celebrate life in many ways.

Not sure the Mass inspires me but I know The Holy Spirit is working and it is great to see so many returning.

My prayer life is very important the Holy Spirit guides me of course it is only in looking back I recognise where He has been at work

In the UK we all have to conform, fit in! We need to show how we value others by allowing them to celebrate in their way.

I'm delighted we have suspended the obligation of Mass

attendance it really has no place in the modern church.  
We need more integration of the communities and the 9am  
11am and 6pm  
Mass goes

What is The Holy Spirit saying to us?

Prayer leads us to be open and to listen with compassion  
We need to reach out ecumenically  
Dedication Sunday may be an option going forward  
Involve as many as possible in preparing and serving  
Other cultures should be recognised and valued.  
LOVE RADICALLY

## **Synodal conversations 2022**

### **Received via email:**

I recently took part in one of the conversations on the Synod, but would like to add something to what I contributed on that occasion, which is as follows:

We all know well that the greatest treasure we have as Catholics is the Presence of Our Lord in the Holy Mass and in the Blessed Sacrament.

My impression is that as a parish we do not appreciate this anything like enough and I believe that it would be helpful for us to have some sort of input to help us to improve individually in our devotion to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament as well as reverence when receiving Holy Communion. This might include some sort of refresher instruction on the Church's teaching on the Real Presence since it seems that some are a bit hazy about it.

We are very privileged in this Parish to have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament all day on two days of the week, which I believe is unusual these days, but we don't seem to appreciate it enough to make the effort to go and spend time with Our Lord more than just occasionally.

As far as receiving Holy Communion is concerned I am referring to the fact that it is sad to see, in some cases, what looks like a lack of awareness of and reverence for the Real Presence of Our Lord when approaching the altar, receiving and consuming the consecrated host, returning to our places and being recollected and praying to Our Lord when we have just received Him.

## **Synod questionnaire response**

Hadyn Ingram

14<sup>th</sup> February 2022

### **Q1. Our experience of COVID 19**

The virus may be a watershed time for the Church as congregations become more used to online services. Should these replace actual services? I fear that pre-COVID congregation numbers may not return quickly.

### **Q2. Our wider journey**

Regrettably, I do not believe that the parish is a community, but a collection of individuals who meet sometimes on Sundays. Similarly, I cannot accept that the noun 'journey' can be a verb.

### **Q3. Our Church community**

See Q2.

### **Q4. Our mission**

I am not clear what our parish sees as its mission, but suggest that it must work much harder, for example at visiting the lonely and/or old.

### **The Holy Spirit**

This is an impossible question. I suggest that every Catholic has different views about the nature and relationship with the Holy Spirit and if they hear voices, they may need medical attention.

### **Voice of the people**

In a hierarchical organisation like the Catholic Church the voice of the 'people' comes at the bottom of the pile. However, Synod meetings like these should focus upon practical rather than spiritual matters. For example, how will the Church organise services in the light of a shortage of priests? What has to be promised training of laity? These are pressing and urgent matters rather than 'touchy-feely' issues in this poorly designed questionnaire.

### **Liturgical celebrations**

This is at the heart of the Catholic faith and, as in the previous answer, must be our prime consideration.

### **Prayer life and celebrations**

Two questions here, both impossible to answer.

### **Further comments**

I am at a loss to understand the aims of this Synod and what is could possibly achieve. Is this about the individual's spirituality? If so, what can be learned from this and what action might ensue? If however, the aims are to explore how the parish operates with the congregation, the questionnaire is badly designed and will not achieve such aims.

We cannot be a missionary church if we don't know what we believe and why, which is the case with most Mass-going Catholics. We don't need big events, but people could start by talking about their beliefs to their non-Catholic friends from time to time, instead of being apologetic about them.

**The fundamental questions:**

How is the Holy Spirit inviting our parish community to grow in 'journeying together'?

Where in these experiences do you hear the voice of the Holy Spirit?

I think we could start by keeping the 10 Commandments and the 6 Commandments of the Church, as well as making prayer a central facet of our everyday life.

I wouldn't presume to say that I hear the voice of the "Holy Spirit", and I am suspicious of people make such claims for themselves, especially in public.

What space is there in our parish for the voice of the people, including active and inactive members of our faith?

Who are "the people"? The tone of this, like much of the language associated with the Synod, sounds like communism to me. Perhaps this is hardly surprising as in recent years Pope Francis's language has become hardly distinguishable from that of President Xi Jinping of Communist China.

Certain people are heard, others are not, and the others include anyone of a traditional Catholic mind. The Pope leads by example in this: over the past couple of years he has held meetings with Jeffrey Sachs the population control advocate, Mark Zuckerberg, and has twice seen Albert Bourla, the CEO of Pfizer: in contrast, he declined to meet Cardinal Zen after sending off the now disgraced Cardinal McCarrick to "negotiate" an agreement with the Chinese Communist Party, an agreement that leaves faithful Catholics out in the cold.

Then Pope Francis attacks those who wish to have Mass according to the 1962 rite, calling them names: he particularly loves the word "rigid" which he uses for anyone who disagrees with him. The fact that this Mass attracts young people, not just priests, doesn't deflect him from his avowed course of eliminating the TLM entirely. To me, to most Catholics I know, even those who are not fans of the TLM, and certainly to all outsiders this seems nothing short of vindictive.

Our own diocese is not free of this: the bishop has banned the TLM in his diocese, preferring to lose priests, rather than endure the fact that they say one Sunday Mass per week, a Mass that was attended by a marvellously varied demographic. In the meantime, the bishop, and this is typical of bishops nearly everywhere it seems, allows other things to go on with his blessing, things that are hardly Catholic. He is also not worried that he only has two candidates for the priesthood.

How does prayer and liturgical celebrations, especially Sunday Mass, inspire and guide our parish?

Like so much of this absurd “Synodal process” the poor grammar and use of language reveal muddled, woolly and nebulous thinking. One area in the modern church that causes me the most pain is how music is used in the modern liturgy: on offer are four, mostly Protestant, hymns, or more modern “worship songs” amateurishly and often entirely incompetently composed, with their entirely secular spirit (the music would be absolutely at home in a stage musical). I long for the music that grew up organically over centuries and which the Church iconoclastically consigned to the rubbish bin in an action that would have pleased the Protestant reformers no end. Exorcists report that the demons hate Gregorian Chant in particular, so in consigning it to oblivion the Church has lost a powerful defence against evil.

The appallingly ignorant clergy do not seem to notice that this music is hugely valued by people, including those, outside the Church and has grown in popularity in recent years. Some clergy (clergy known personally to me) are also appallingly snobby about this, assuming that such music is all right for the educated, but that the person in the pew is too stupid to appreciate it. What an attitude! What contempt for the ordinary person! Here the Pope leads from the front again: he has an encyclopaedic knowledge of music, but would like to take us back to the tambourines and guitars of the 70s.

How does your prayer life and celebration of the Mass inspire and inform your personal decisions and decisions of the parish community?

How can I possibly speak for the parish community. I hope that my life is changed by the time I spend in prayer and at Mass.

*Please place completed questionnaire in the box in the porch – thank you*



wonder what on earth is going on. Thank God most parish priests in this country don't seem to be like this.

How has our Parish/community 'journeyed' with others, outside the community?

I don't think we have "journeyed" with others outside the community. I don't even know what the phrase really means.

## **2. Our wider journey**

When does your faith journey bring you joy?

When the Mass is celebrated according to the guidance laid down at Vatican II and space is given to Gregorian Chant, traditional Catholic music and silence.

## **3. Our Church Community**

When we say 'our Church' who is part of it?

The Baptised. There is no question of this: it has always been the church's teaching as set out, for example, in the admirably clear *Pascendi Dominici Gregis* of Pope St Pius X, or more recently in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Attempts to widen the definition merely confuse everyone.

Who is missing on this journey? To whom do we need to listen?

The lapsed are certainly missing, and we need to listen to them, as many have left the church through ignorance, though they usually use a personal and possibly perceived hurt suffered at the hands of a priest as their reason. We also need to listen to faithful, orthodox Catholics in particular. A church run by those with heterodox or heretical beliefs is not the Catholic Church and will quickly wither.

## **4. Our Mission**

What would you wish to celebrate about how our parish/community lives its mission?

Again, I don't know what is meant by "celebrate" here. Two things stand out, in my mind, as areas in which this particular parish is exemplary, firstly the outstanding work done over the years by the Catholic chaplaincy at the hospital, and secondly our truly Catholic ethnic mix, which is something to be grateful for.

What areas of mission are we neglecting?

**The fundamental questions:**

How is the Holy Spirit inviting our parish community to grow in 'journeying together'?

Where in these experiences do you hear the voice of the Holy Spirit?

I don't think I've ever had the privilege of hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit, and have always found this concept difficult to understand. I do know that the power of prayer is very potent, and one of the greatest gifts of any Christian community.

What space is there in our parish for the voice of the people, including active and inactive members of our faith?

There should be more time and space given to the practical side of running the church. The lack of priests is one of the biggest challenges facing the modern Catholic Church and solutions need to be discussed as a matter of urgency.

How does prayer and liturgical celebrations, especially Sunday Mass, inspire and guide our parish?

The Mass is the heart of everything. It should be the highlight of the week and a balm to modern living - therefore it should include beautiful music and time for silent contemplation

How does your prayer life and celebration of the Mass inspire and inform your personal decisions and decisions of the parish community?

It is the centre of my life but I don't feel decisions of the parish community are part of my life.

*Please place completed questionnaire in the box in the porch – thank you*

## Questionnaire after prayer

Suggested reading:        Mark 1:21-39                                (Discerning God's call)  
                                     Acts 15:1-35                                (Communion)  
                                     1 Corinthians 12:1-15, 22, 25-31 (Mission)

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.

And kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.

And you will renew the face of the earth.

Lord,

by the light of the Holy Spirit

you have taught the hearts of your faithful.

In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right

and always rejoice in your consolation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.                                *Amen.*

### 1.     **Our experience of COVID-19**

What has been your experience of our Church community 'journeying together' these past 18 months?

I don't think our parish has been on any kind of "journey " The online services were very good but there was no feeling of being together about them. We coped through the pandemic individually; the church was absent for most people during this time. I also think that most people got out of the habit of attending mass, and maybe this is why congregations have shrunk since Covid.

How has our Parish/community 'journeyed' with others, outside the community?

I don't think our parish has been anywhere with or without others!!

### 2.     **Our wider journey**

When does your faith journey bring you joy?

During the Mass. I feel joy during periods of music and silence. There is not enough silence in our modern Mass. The congregation needs to listen and contemplate more. We do not need to be joining in all the time. For the same reason music is incredibly important. Congregational hymns are important but

the role of a choir and organist are equally important. The church has a wonderful musical inheritance that has been largely ignored since the 1970s and although there are a range of good modern Catholic composers the church very often chooses the very lowest end of that spectrum. Plainchant is very rarely heard these days and yet it has become very popular in the secular world as an aid to meditation and relaxation - I wonder why!!

### **3. Our Church Community**

When we say 'our Church' who is part of it?

I always thought the Church meant all those baptised into the Catholic faith, practising or not.

Who is missing on this journey? To whom do we need to listen?

What exactly is this journey?????!!!!!!

### **4. Our Mission**

What would you wish to celebrate about how our parish/community lives its mission?

Again I'm not sure what this means. What is the parish mission?

What areas of mission are we neglecting?

As above - pass on this question

## Questionnaire after prayer

Suggested reading: Mark 1:21-39 (Discerning God's call)  
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### 1. Our experience of COVID-19

What has been your experience of our Church community 'journeying together' these past 18 months?

I have mostly attended a church in another parish.

How has our Parish/community 'journeyed' with others, outside the community?

I don't know. Except that the Catholic hospital chaplain (Canon Michael, + now Fr Jonathan) fills in during the nights for all the absentee clergymen of denominations - a great work of mercy.

### 2. Our wider journey

When does your faith journey bring you joy?

During the big celebrations of easter + christmas; during a mass which is quiet, reverent and peaceful. Seeing Africans + Philipinos at mass

### 3. Our Church Community

When we say 'our Church' who is part of it?

Who is missing on this journey? To whom do we need to listen?

#### 4. Our Mission

what does this mean? Acknowledge? Praise?

→ Report positively on?

What would you wish to celebrate about how our parish/community lives its mission?

What areas of mission are we neglecting?

The Ordinarate Mass now caters for those who were driven elsewhere by the awful modern hymns and the unchecked noise of gossip before and after Sunday Mass, and crying children. Keep

**The fundamental questions:** this Mass

How is the Holy Spirit inviting our parish community to grow in 'journeying together'?

Where in these experiences do you hear the voice of the Holy Spirit?

This 'invitation' seems to come from Rome but as yet lacks clear direction.

What space is there in our parish for the voice of the people, including active and inactive members of our faith?

Parish organisations? Fundraising? Activities? Don't know. There are formerly Mass-going Catholics who now don't go to church at all, and not because of the Covid restrictions. They left some time before Covid arrived.

How do prayer and liturgical celebrations, especially Sunday Mass, inspire and guide our parish?

Such things inspire and guide individuals, + individuals make up the parish as a whole.

How do your prayer life and celebration of the Mass inspire and inform your personal decisions and decisions of the parish community?

Prayer life and Mass do, I hope, inspire + inform personal decisions. Not sure how they affect the parish.

Please place completed questionnaire in the box in the porch – thank you