Synod Feedback Form

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| **NAME OF PARISH** | **NAME OF PASTORAL GROUPING** |
| Church of the Holy Spirit, Ballyroan,  Dublin 14 | Ballyroan, Churchtown and Rathfarnham |
| **VENUE OF GATHERINGS** | **IN PERSON OR ZOOM** |
| **Ruah Parish Centre Ballyroan** | **In person** |
| **NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS *(1st Gathering)*** | **NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS *(2nd Gathering)*** |
| **One gathering discussed all 4 questions**  **22 attended** | **We received 41 completed questionnaires from parishioners and**  **33 from the secondary boys’ school and over 100 from the secondary girls’ school** |

**THE JOYS (How do you feel supported to participate within our parish and Church)**

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| **WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?** | **No.** | **WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?** | **No.** |
| **JOY**  We feel involved within our parish, people are kind, and we receive support at times of bereavement.  We feel welcomed -  Teenagers- have a sense of God’s presence in my life.  Praying together in Mass or school is good as it brings us closer together. |  | Teenagers, I would like more music at Mass |  |

**THE SORROWS (what would encourage you /family to become more involved)**

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| **WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?** | **No.** | **WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?** | **No.** |
| **SORROW**  Lack of lay involvement in decision- making, women in leadership roles  Shortage of priests  We do not have married priests,  Women deacons, or women priests  Lack of youth involvement –  Adult children raised in the faith but not participating –  Lack of acceptance of contraception, divorce, and homo-sexuality -  Clerical abuse -caused such harm  Better communication from the parish -and between the different ministries in the parish  Church not speaking out enough on social issues like health and housing |  | (Teenagers) hard to relate to Mass  Mass is too long.  My parents do not bring me to Mass or encourage me to go  My friends do not go so it stops me from going too  We do not know anyone else who goes  Mass is at the same time as my sports  Need to establish our parish pastoral council  Need to make better use of our parish centre  Lack of hospitality events (tea/coffee) after Mass- |  |

**THE FEARS (how can our parish team/community reach out to younger people and support them in understanding/practicing their faith)**

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| **WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?** | **No.** | **WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?** | **No.** |
| **FEAR**  Lack of the lack of the availability of priests in the future  Fear that faith will not be passed on as parents are not religious/ practicing  Mass is not understood and does not appeal to younger generations  Teenagers said it was too long, it clashed with sporting events    Church becoming irrelevant to many |  | Commercialisation of First Communion/Confirmation events-  Teenagers I can see Churches closing in 20 or 30 years  Mass needs to be more energetic, and less serious. |  |

**THE HOPES (How do you see the future for our parish/Church, have you suggestions)**

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| **WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?** | **No.** | **WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?** | **No.** |
| **HOPE**  There will be more active involvement of lay people, and married men and women in ministry  The work of our priest and others will encourage younger people back to our Church, through good sacramental preparation, faith development, religious classes, retreats.  Involvement with local schools on a range of faith based and volunteering activities  Social and family friendly activities-family Mass and refreshments afterwards  Encourage volunteers to get involved within our parish, to have an active role  Develop a youth choir and other activities to encourage young people to get involved  Adoration/holy hour  Mission to third level students  More parishioners/discussion like Synodal pathway/ forum  Potential for inter-cultural activities  Informal prayer groups  Outreach to the less well-off will encourage involvement within our parish/Church. |  | Teenagers- making a youth club or make learning about God more fun.  Support LGBTQ young people  Youth nights where they teach youth to pray |  |

**REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

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| **WHAT THEMES ARE EMERGING FROM THE GATHERING?** |
| **There are still a group of committed parishioners involved within our parish, but the age profile is getting older**  **The shortage of priests must be addressed**  **Women need to have a greater leadership role in our Church.**  **Married priests and women deacons are part of the solution**  **Our questionnaire from our secondary school children, shows an openness among many to be involved within our parish.**  **Children/ younger teenagers are not being taken to Mass by their parents or encouraged to go**  **Need to develop a youth ministry plan, a family Mass ( liturgy to reflect this)**  **Faith development activities needed and greater preparation for sacramental preparation and encounters with people at these times, baptism, funerals etc.** |

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| **WHAT MIGHT THE HOLY SPIRIT BE INDICATING IN THIS?** |
| **We need to plan for our future, we need to put into place pastoral teams, support, and train parish pastoral councils.**  **We need to link with our Catholic schools more and in-reach and speak to our young people**  **We need to take more time with sacramental preparation, and we need an informed team of lay people and ministers to do this.**  **We must address the shortage of priests.**  **We need to involve women more in decision making** |

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| **SIGNED** | **DATE** |
| ***Moira Hanbidge***  ***Deacon Frank Browne***  ***Fr Michael Murtagh*** | **20.4.22** |