



## Synod Feedback Form

NAME OF PARISH	NAME OF PASTORAL GROUPING
St Michael's Parish, Inchicore, Dublin 8	Oblate Pastoral Area Inchicore- Bluebell – Dublin 8
VENUE OF GATHERINGS	IN PERSON OR ZOOM
St Michael's Church	In Person
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS (1 <sup>st</sup> Gathering)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS (2 <sup>nd</sup> Gathering)
75	69

### THE JOYS

WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?	No.	WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?	No.
<p><b>JOY OF BEING PART OF COMMUNITY OF FAITH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support</li> <li>• Togetherness</li> <li>• Belonging</li> <li>• Empathy</li> <li>• One family</li> <li>• The Family of God</li> <li>• Participation</li> <li>• Social network</li> <li>• Communal Celebration</li> <li>• Fellowship</li> </ul>	<b>65</b>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Happy Atmosphere</li> <li>• Shared Joy</li> <li>• Always somewhere to go in the world</li> <li>• Faithfulness of many</li> <li>• Praising God</li> <li>• Praying together</li> <li>• All are welcome</li> <li>• Inclusion of new communities</li> <li>• When Youth around</li> <li>• When Children learning – drawing – biblical stories</li> <li>• Joy of sharing a common purpose</li> <li>• Volunteers and professionals working together</li> <li>• Joy of shared fundamental values</li> </ul> <p><b>THE JOY OF RECEIVING PERSONAL COMFORT/ HOPE FROM CHURCH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comfort</li> <li>• Inner peace</li> <li>• Awareness of God</li> <li>• Being in the moment</li> </ul>	<p><b>31</b></p>		
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- A space to reflect
- Stillness
- Quiet prayer
- Healing
- Support
- Reflection
- Praying
- Solace
- God is close
- Living the Gospel
- Comfort when Church is open
- Lighting candles
- Faith brings Joy
- I am loved by God
- Receiving support and forgiveness for abortion
  
- (Bird song in morning on way to mass
- Seeing nature opening up)

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**JOY OF SHARING IN  
GOOD LITURGY**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Celebrating the Liturgical high-pts of Calendar. Xmas/Easter</li> <li>• Feasts Celebrated – Brigid/ Patrick etc</li> <li>• Lovely Liturgies</li> <li>• Well prepared Liturgy</li> <li>• Enjoying exuberance in the celebration</li> <li>• When nature/ creation enrich liturgy</li> <li>• Nature brought into daily mass</li> <li>• Climate and eco-liturgy</li> <li>• Crib and displays</li> <li>• Easter Garden</li> <li>• Sacred spaces in Church</li> <li>• Joy of Music at masses</li> <li>• Joy of Liturgy relevant to life</li> <li>• 1916 – 2016 Liturgical Celebration with Community</li> <li>• Parish Priest's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a priest.</li> <li>• Cleaning and caring for the Church</li> </ul>			
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**THE JOY OF SOCIAL CARE AND JUSTICE IN THE CHURCH**

- Being active
- Caring for the Community
- Generosity of people
- Trócaire's work
- Missionary work
- Lay and religious work
- Belief in social teaching ( Child of God and dignity of the person)
- Church Mission to the poor
- Solidarity with others
- Praying for others
- Seeking world justice
- Helping social needs of world
- Charities
- Post Abortion services provided

**JOY OF THE MASS**

- Regular mass
- Community of Daily Mass go-ers

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing Eucharist</li> <li>• Spiritual Reading</li> <li>• Joy of the Gospel</li> <li>• A Homily that Resonates</li> <li>• A Homily Relevant to today</li> <li>• A Homily that impacts</li> <li>• My ministry in word and/or communion</li> <li>• Adoration of Blessed sacrament</li> </ul>	<p><b>10</b></p>		
<p><b>THE JOY OF THE SACRAMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baptism – Confirmation – wedding etc</li> <li>• Celebrating the Life cycle</li> <li>• Family Gatherings around sacraments and life cycle</li> <li>• Joy of Rituals</li> <li>• Getting the Spiritual through the sacraments</li> </ul>	<p><b>10</b></p>		
<p><b>THE JOY OF MUSIC AND SONG</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joy of music in Church</li> <li>• Nice music very important</li> </ul>			

- Good songs - words
- Singing together and listening to music
- Prayer Service ( through good music)
- Joy of being in Choirs
- Choirs bring Joy to the people

7

**THE JOY POPE FRANCIS BRINGS**

- Francis Vision
- Francis Eco-Vision
- The man himself
- His leadership
- His Commitment
- Francis Brings New Life
- Laudate-Si

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**JOY FROM THE MODERN OUT REACH OF THE CHURCH**

- Online Outreach (video and web page)
- Radical new

<p>movements in the Church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This Synod – having our say</li> <li>• Helping the Church grow and adjust</li> <li>• Having the Church in the Education System</li> </ul>	5		
<p><b>JOY FROM THE LEGACY OF THE CHURCH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legacy of Christ and Christianity</li> <li>• Lay and Religious of Christian History</li> <li>• The Miracles of saints</li> <li>• Richness of native Inheritance ( Celtic Spirituality)</li> <li>• Remembering/ Honouring Ancestors</li> </ul>	5		
<p><b>THE JOY RECEIVED FROM THE CLERGY AND THE SISTERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friendliness of Priests and Sisters</li> <li>• Missionary priest and</li> </ul>			



<p>missionary sister stories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priests open and relaxed with the Congregation</li> <li>• Priests who keep going through difficult times and personal struggles.</li> </ul>			
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### THE SORROWS

WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?	No.	WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?	No.
<p><b>SORROW AT WOMEN'S ROLE IN THE CHURCH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of equality is</li> </ul>	<p><b>31</b></p>		

<p>outrageous</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No women in top 50%</li> <li>• Lack of involvement</li> <li>• 50% of faithful are women</li> <li>• Absence in power</li> <li>• Role of women not developed</li> <li>• Position of women saddens</li> <li>• Their participation not acknowledged</li> <li>• Absence of women at all levels</li> <li>• Female voice is not heard</li> <li>• Church's attitude to women saddens me</li> <li>• Lack of inclusion of women</li> <li>• Exclusion of women</li> <li>• Lack of regard for women</li> <li>• Women no say in Church</li> <li>• Failure to recognise role of women</li> <li>• Failure to harness women's contribution</li> </ul>			
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- Women no proper roles
- No women priests
- No women ordination
- Women still unequal
- Deacons all male – no women
- Lack of women for future roles
- Women not given leadership roles
- Women have not got their rightful place
- Role of women is a failure of the Church.

**SORROW AROUND THE  
ROLE OF THE VATICAN  
AND CHURCH  
LEADERSHIP**

**34**

- Disappointed in Vatican wealth
- Contradicts Jesus way of living

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hypocrisy at higher level</li> <li>• Higher up, the clergy are not walking with the people</li> <li>• The Church is Hierarchical</li> <li>• Christ was/is centred on the people and community</li> <li>• Vatican is Corporate organisation at its worst</li> <li>• No trust in higher levels with money</li> <li>• Bishops living in palaces</li>   <li>• Lack of Leadership terrible</li> <li>• Lack of Church guidance on moral issues / key issues</li> <li>• Sad that Euthanasia is probable</li>   <li>• Church afraid to stand up</li> <li>• Clergy should speak out as leaders</li> </ul>			
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of leadership on all matters</li> <li>• Lack of listening of the leadership of the Church</li> <li>• Not listening to the people</li> <li>• Lack of response to building faith communities</li> <li>• Closed ears</li> <li>• Unwilling to reach out</li> <li>• Institution is removed from people</li> <li>• Clergy need to walk with people</li> <li>• Spirit of Vatican 11 is not being heard</li> <li>• Church not reading signs of times</li> <li>• Lack of change</li> <li>• Lack of relevance</li> <li>• Lost opportunities in the synodal process</li> <li>• Lack of inclusion of marginalised in synod process</li> <li>• Slowness of change and growth</li> </ul>			
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- Resistance to change
- Rome slow moving
- Church giving up altogether
- Church has lost its sense of purpose

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### **SORROW OVER THE YOUTH**

- Lack of youth in church
- Young not seen
- Young gone
- Young People not knowing prayers  
And about the traditions of the Church
- Age profile old
- Youth are deflated by the Church
- Lack of engaging with the young
- Lack of faith in the young
- Children come twice – Communion and Confirmation
- Children have broken away with parents
- Children not at mass

- Youth not engaged in Parish
- Lack of help for young to develop a deep spirituality
- No youth forum for Experiencing the Love of God
- Little to attract families
- Language of young people is different to language of the Church
- The response of the youth to Church is not heard or known
- What rituals have the youth – are they missing out

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**SORROW OVER THE CHURCH SCANDALS**

- Cases of abuse not handled well
- All authority of the Church is gone
- Clergy are in their own way
- The history of child sexual abuse

- Orphanages
- Hurt not acknowledged properly
- Lack of accountability
- Reluctant to donate to wider church
- Lack of trust on money
- Lost young and middle aged over scandals
- The past is sad

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**SORROW OVER THE EXCLUSION OF PEOPLE FROM CHURCH**

- People who feel left out – young and old
- Exclusion on sexual orientation
- LGBT minority group excluded
- LGBT not accepted
- LGBT alienation
- Homosexuals badly



<p>treated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of love and humanity</li> <li>• Judgementalism - rule bound</li> <li>• Church too judgemental</li> <li>• Lack of change, yet urgent change needed</li> <li>• Conventionalism of Church</li> </ul>	<p><b>14</b></p>		
<p><b>SORROW OVER AN AGING PRIESTHOOD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priests are elderly</li> <li>• Notably sick and dying</li> <li>• Not having daily mass</li> <li>• Hard to get confession</li> <li>• Hard to get priest for the sick</li> <li>• Few / no vocations</li> <li>• Shortage of priests</li> <li>• Nuns disappearing</li> </ul>	<p><b>11</b></p>		
<p><b>SORROW OVER THE LACK OF HUMILITY AMONG HIERACHY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patriarchal Church needs more humility</li> <li>• Disconnection of priests with people</li> </ul>			

- Clergy preaching at us
- Clergy not among us
- Sermons too long
- Sermons need to relate to living
- Priests can be unkind and / or dismissive of us
- Gospels need revising
- Old Test readings need revising
- Review readings
- Failure to address readings relevant to people

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**SORROW OVER THE TREATMENT OF PRIESTS AND THE CHURCH IN THE MEDIA**

- Priests being abused by media
- Media bashing Christian / Catholic community
- Catholicism not fashionable
- Baby is being thrown out with the bathwater
- All tarnished with the one brush

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People blaming the past of Church on everything</li> <li>• Priests isolated</li> <li>• Lack of respect</li> <li>• Media unfair</li> <li>• Bad press</li> <li>• Church blamed for others shortcomings</li> </ul>			
<p><b>SORROW OVER CHURCH RULES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Church bound by man-made rules</li> <li>• Contraception</li> <li>• Celibacy</li> <li>• No married priests</li> <li>• Bar on women</li> <li>• It is Legalism over Love</li> <li>• Priest in Arizona Baptisms were invalidated</li> </ul>	<p><b>10</b></p>		
<p><b>SORROW OVER PLACE OF JESUS IN CHURCH</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>		

- Personal relationship with Jesus is absent
- Jesus is counter cultural
- Lack of awareness / respect for Blessed Sacrament
- Church needs to be more Christ Centred
- Lack of reverence
- Jesus not given first place
- Over emphasis on external trappings

**SORROW THAT FAITH IS NOT LIVED AS A WAY OF LIFE**

10

- We are given a fuzzy feeling at mass rather than an encounter with the Divine
- A Short mass is preferable
- Gospel is not practiced in daily life.
- Supernatural power of Holy Spirit( acts) is unknown
- Miracle testimony is

<p>frowned on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Church can supply all needs – this is not realised</li> <li>• Loss of faith among people in Church</li> <li>• Church has lost value of praying together</li> <li>• Unkind gossip in community</li> <li>• Constant noise in Church.</li> </ul> <p><b>SORROW OVER LACK OF ATTENTION TO ISSUES OF SOCIAL JUSTICE IN CHURCH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunger and thirst for Justice is weak</li> <li>• Lack of support for people in need when needed</li> <li>• Church not strong enough on planetary destruction</li> <li>• Laudate si is not taken seriously enough</li> <li>• Not enough leadership on social justice and equality</li> </ul>	<p>7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sorrow over Stance</b> of Church on war with Ukraine</li> <li>• <b>Sad at Request</b> by Archbishop to convert churches to homes.</li> </ul>	<p>1</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Church not speaking to the poor in society</li> <li>• Not addressing housing</li> </ul>			1
<p><b>SORROW OVER THE ROLE OF THE LAITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of training for laity in ministry</li> <li>• Lack of concentrated effort to finance laity in leadership and ministry</li> <li>• Lack of scope for lay ministries</li> <li>• Lack of engagement with the laity</li> <li>• Minimal role at present for lay people – Pastoral workers, Ministers etc</li> </ul>	8		
<p><b>SORROW OVER NUMBERS DECREASING</b></p>	8		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Church attendance going down</li> <li>• Very disappointing numbers</li> <li>• Children seldom there</li> <li>• Post Covid drop</li> <li>• Sad and afraid that Church will disappear altogether</li> </ul> <p><b>SORROW RESULTING FROM BEREAVEMENT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bereavement of loved one – funerals sad</li> <li>• Only time in Church is when I lose someone</li> <li>• Loss from / during Covid</li> </ul>	<p>4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>None</b> ( no sadness) that I can recollect. ( this person has just come to Ireland from overseas - Africa)</li> <li>• <b>Sad at</b> the Physical Condition of Church at St Michael’s (windows and walls need repair).</li> </ul>	<p>1</p> <p>1</p>
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## THE HOPES

WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?	No.	WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?	No.
<p><b>HOPE FOR CHANGE IN ROLE OF WOMEN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ordination of women</li> <li>• Women priests say mass</li> <li>• Women deacons at least</li> <li>• Women ministers</li> <li>• Equality of women</li> <li>• Women priests equal in Church</li> <li>• More women involved in decision making</li> <li>• Women Administrators at top level</li> </ul>	<b>21</b>		



- Women given opportunities
- Women's contribution given more importance
- Sermons from women
- Recognition of women as great carers for family: head of prayer life at home.
- Women bring out goodness in people and Church.
- More women voices to be heard in Church
- Realise strength of women.
- Women can turn Church around

**HOPE FOR BETTER  
RELATIONSHIP WITH  
LAITY**

- More dialogue with laity
- Vatican Two will be lived- out/ realised.
- Empower lay people and train them
- Collaboration between Lay people and clergy
- People of faith has

21

<p>power to grow and flourish</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Break down in hierarchy is an opportunity for faith community</li> <li>• Process like Synodal Pathway comes from bottom up and outwards. Rather than top down model of this one.</li> <li>• Hope Church more real - alive and relevant</li> <li>• Lay will run Church with male and female priests</li> <li>• Lay training in Ministry</li> <li>• Funerals, Baptism weddings etc</li> <li>• Lay-Led Liturgies</li> <li>• Needs to be Model for lay involvement</li> <li>• Training for lay Christian people in media to tell the good news</li> <li>• Bring in the capable and able lay people</li> <li>• Ordinary voices heard not dictated to by</li> </ul>			
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hierarchy - clergy

- Hope laity are prepared properly for more involvement - training
- Hope for courage for the Church to embrace laity

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### HOPE IN JESUS

- 'I will be with you always'
- Grief and loss can bring hope
- Shared faith in Christ continues
- Faith in Hope
- Faith that God's Church will succeed
- Hope in Resurrection
- Hope in gift of belief and – happiness in future
- Hope in Renewal
- That people will

<p>know God's love</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Those practicing by example will bring people back to worship</li><li>• Hope in the goodness of people</li><li>• Hope in the People of God</li><li>• Hope Proclaim message of Christ in future</li><li>• Faith in prayer and silence</li><li>• Faith in Holy Spirit – gifts and fruits will flourish and be evident</li><li>• Holy Spirit teaches us how to have a personal relationship with Christ</li><li>• Hope people will know scripture</li><li>• 'My plans for you are for peace, a future</li></ul>		
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full of hope'

17

**HOPE FOR CHANGE IN CHURCH**

- Reversal of present situation
- Tide will flow again
- Christ will come again
- Church regains position at centre of community
- Emerges as an Inclusive sanctuary for all
- People will come back
- Bring people back
- Relevant to people
- Open and accessible

to people

- All Welcome
- Male celibate leadership goes – man made
- Curia takes long holiday
- Doctrine of Church is looked at again so as relevant to life
- Church will lead more effectively
- Church change – and develop and it is not too late
- Fundamental values will remain same
- Hope Church can ‘dance a Sarah’s circle rather than climbing Jacob’s ladder’

17

**HOPE IN EMERGENCE OF  
SMALL CHRISTIAN  
COMMUNITIES**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small Christian groups will grow stronger</li> <li>• Lay led</li> <li>• No hierarchy</li> <li>• Laity trained to lead them</li> <li>• Better handling of past hurt</li> <li>• Small communities better</li> <li>Intergenerational Balance</li> <li>• Closer parish communities</li> <li>• Parish a community of communities</li> <li>• Youthful spirit in small communities</li> <li>• Small groups Bring faith into homes and all situations of our lives</li> <li>• Be brothers and sisters concerned</li> </ul>			
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<p>about each other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little home churches</li> <li>• People praying with each other when sick</li> <li>• More Basic Communities emerge - more meaningful and participatory</li> <li>• Back to traditions from earliest centuries of small faith communities</li> </ul> <p><b>HOPE FOR GREATER INCLUSIVITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusive – decision making lay men and women</li> <li>• Marginalised back in</li> <li>• Accommodate all</li> <li>• LGBT treated for who we are not what we are</li> <li>• Acceptance for all</li> </ul>	<p>17</p>		
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- All are welcome
- Church will be welcome for all
- More inclusive
- Inclusivity
- Inclusive
- Inclusivity of all
- All welcome – skin – sexuality- class -no religion

13

**HOPE FOR THE  
PRIESTHOOD**

- More priests
- More deacons married and single
- Married priests
- Option for all priests to marry.
- Priest role not for life
- Nuns take priest role
- Women ordained
- Gay Priests in loving relationships

12

**HOPE IN SOCIAL  
TEACHING OF CHURCH**

- On Climate Justice
- Action in Third World
- Laudate si
- Shared faith in action  
on local level and  
global level
- Hope in hunger and  
thirst for Justice

8

**HOPE IN SYNODAL  
PATHWAY**

- Not possible 20  
years ago - progress
- Hope Synod  
Pathway brings rich  
fruits
- Hope for Big change  
in institution from  
Synod
- Synod Process gets

<p>good response from Institution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More Conversations – like this</li> <li>• Hope Synod means / brings change for the best.</li> </ul> <p><b>HOPE FOR / IN YOUTH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hope youth will come back</li> <li>• Church will attract young people</li> <li>• That Church starts reaching out to youth now and in future</li> <li>• Hope for conversion of the youth to God</li> <li>• That young Christians practice their faith</li> <li>• That youth learn value of silence and meditation</li> <li>• That youth renew</li> </ul>	<p>8</p> <p>6</p>		
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<p>Church in future</p> <p><b>HOPE IN POPE FRANCIS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Francis is a beacon of hope</li> </ul> <p><b>HOPE IN IMMIGRANTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hope in immigrants who change our reality for better and change church too</li> <li>Hope New Irish</li> <li>Migrant communities will renew us</li> <li>Hope in the Joy of Filipino Indian African in Church</li> </ul> <p><b>LESSONS FROM THE ABUSE OF THE PAST</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learn lessons from the past</li> <li>Deal with past better</li> <li>Hands up when wrong</li> <li>No sweeping under carpet</li> </ul>	<p>6</p> <p>5</p> <p>6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hope in last 2000 years of tradition. Hope Church will continue with male deacons.</li> </ul>	<p>1</p>
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## **HOPE IN CHRISTIAN TRADITION**

- Church will survive after 2000 years
- I place my hope in the great priests and religious among us
- Christians will continue and contribute to Church always
- Hope in Trips to Knock
- Hope in Trips to Croke Patrick

**4**

## **HOPE CHURCH LESS LEGALISTIC**

- Church moves out of adherence to conformity
- Less rule bound
- More flexible
- Less laws more love

**3**

## **CATECHESIS**

- Hope in better teaching of faith.
- Hope in wider teaching of Faith
- Hope in Catechesis – new ministries set up by

<p>Pope Francis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilise Church buildings to serve teachings and community meetings</li> </ul>			
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### THE FEARS

WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?	No.	WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?	No.
<p><b>No Change</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Things will stay same</li> <li>• Stagnate as we are</li> <li>• Change will come too late</li> <li>• Awaken too late</li> <li>• Seeing all old men with pointy hats( mitres) making all decisions in years ahead</li> <li>• A siege mentality become a reality</li> <li>• Will not be open to new ways of living faith</li> <li>• Lack of touch with lived realities of people</li> </ul>	<b>45</b>	<p><b>Change will compromise true faith</b></p>	<b>1</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bishops will remain aloof</li> <li>• Church will not let go of power</li> <li>• More faithful to magisterium and Rome</li> <li>• Conservative leadership</li> <li>• Church at top will not change</li> <li>• Resistant to change</li> <li>• Elite continue to rule Vatican</li> <li>• Will not learn</li> <li>• Will become more defensive because more aggression towards them.</li> <li>• Schisms – Germany</li> <li>• Losing any relevance</li> <li>• Not connecting to ordinary lives</li> <li>• Not listening</li> <li>• Present attitude of Patriarchy will persist</li> <li>• Continue to do same expecting different results</li> <li>• Fear absence of leadership</li> </ul>			
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Return to flesh pots of Egypt rather than stay in desert with God - and lead</li> <li>• Bishops afraid to speak out</li> <li>• That Jesus values will be lost</li>   <li>• Fear filtering of this conversation- Synodal process</li> <li>• Process not produce result and be taken seriously</li> <li>• That we will not be listened to despite being asked for our opinion</li> <li>• Further removed from ordinary people</li> <li>• Fear become totally irrelevant</li> <li>• Fears Church out of touch with local people in parish</li> <li>• Fear it is already a museum</li> <li>• Become more inward not outward looking</li> </ul>			
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<p>country</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No married priests in my life time</li> </ul> <p><b>FEAR LOSS OF CHRISTIAN HERITAGE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Richness of heritage lost</li> <li>• No vocations</li> <li>• No mass</li> <li>• Values of Church – no longer exist</li> <li>• Fear the struggle for future society without Church</li> <li>• Past was Persecution for Religious. Present indifference</li> <li>• When Church dies then there will be sadness and it will matter</li> <li>• Fear that spirituality will die</li> <li>• Fear Faith will die</li> <li>• Lose faith we be demoralised</li> <li>• Fear to go out</li> <li>• Fear compromising on values to survive</li> </ul>	<p>21</p>		
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- Resolving issues we could lose Christ
- Afraid will simplify readings and scripture to keep people
- Loss of a safe haven
- We cannot remain as we are – turning -up on Sunday - when we feel like it.
- Church failing to stress need of God in daily life

**FEAR AROUND YOUTH**

**14**

- Afraid not involving young people
- Young people will never come back
- Young people go

<p>altogether because of lack of inclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fear continue dictating to young people on moral issues</li> <li>• If present way of worship continues – no return of youth</li> <li>• Irrelevant to youth</li> <li>• No youth no church</li> <li>• Aging congregation</li> <li>• Elderly dying off – Church dying with them</li> <li>• Fear youth will have no direction when elderly die.</li> </ul> <p><b>FEARS CONCERNING LAITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fear laity will be included too late</li> <li>• Laity are not encouraged</li> <li>• Laity are not trained</li> </ul>	<p><b>13</b></p>	
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No action taken by hierarchy on laity</li> <li>• Church have left it late to include members</li> <li>• Good people are being lost to Church</li> <li>• Generation lost to Church</li> <li>• Continue watching lay friends leave</li> <li>• Continue falling off in attendance</li> <li>• Eventually no numbers</li> <li>• No one in attendance</li> </ul> <p><b>CHURCH WILL REMAIN EXCLUSIVE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Divorced people will not be brought in</li> <li>• LGBT will not be included</li> <li>• Fearful fewer people active.</li> <li>• Segregation will grow</li> <li>• Lack of support for vulnerable and different In community</li> </ul> <p><b>FEAR AROUND POSITION</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Laity will not help 2</b></li> <li>• <b>Lack of commitment among laity</b></li> </ul>	
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**OF WOMEN**

- Women priests never
- Women not heard
- Women not brought in

6

**FEARS ABOUT ABUSE**

- Abuse will continue
- More scandal to come out
- Lack of peace in Church
  
- Good not recognised because of negative narrative

5

**POPE FRANCIS**

- Pope Francis will die before vision realised
- His death will reverse process
- Is Pope Francis/ Papacy strong enough for the change which is needed?

4

<p><b>Uncertainty</b> <b>Uncertain future</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>		
<p><b>There will be no Catholic schools</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p>		

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

<p><b>WHAT THEMES ARE EMERGING FROM THE GATHERING?</b></p>
<p><b>JOY OF BEING PART OF A COMMUNITY OF FAITH</b></p>
<p><b>JOY OF RECEIVING PERSONAL COMFORT/ HOPE FROM CHURCH</b></p>
<p><b>JOY OF SHARING IN GOOD LITURGY</b></p>
<p><b>JOY OF SOCIAL CARE AND JUSTICE IN THE CHURCH</b></p>
<p><b>JOY OF THE MASS</b></p>

**JOY OF THE SACRAMENTS**

**JOY FROM MUSIC AND SONG**

**JOY POPE FRANCIS BRINGS**

**JOY FROM THE MODERN OUTREACH OF THE CHURCH**

**JOY FROM THE LEGACY OF CHURCH**

**JOY RECEIVED FROM THE CLERGY AND THE SISTERS**

**SORROW AT WOMEN'S ROLE IN THE CHURCH**

**SORROW AT ROLE OF THE VATICAN/ LEADERSHIP OF CHURCH**

**SORROW AT FAILURE OF LEADERSHIP TO LISTEN TO PEOPLE**

**SORROW AT SLOWNESS/ RESISTANCE TO CHANGE  
SORROW OVER ABSENCE OF YOUTH AND CHILDREN IN  
CHURCH**

**SORROW OVER THE RECENT PAST - CHURCH SCANDALS**

**SORROW OVER LACK OF HUMILITY AMONG HIERACHY**

**SORROW OVER THE EXCLUSION OF PEOPLE FROM CHURCH-  
LGBT**

**SORROW OVER CHURCH RULES – LEGALISM NOT LOVE**

**SORROW OVER AN AGING PRIESTHOOD**

**SORROW OVER THE TREATMENT OF PRIESTS AND CHURCH IN  
THE MEDIA**

**SORROW OVER THE PLACE OF JESUS IN THE CHURCH**

**SORROW THAT FAITH IS NOT LIVED AS A WAY OF LIFE**

**SORROW OVER LACK OF ATTENTION TO ISSUES OF SOCIAL  
JUSTICE IN THE CHURCH**

**SORROW OVER THE ROLE OF THE LAITY**



## **SORROW AT DECREASING NUMBERS**

**SORROW OF BEREAVEMENT AND LOSS EXPERIENCED DURING FUNERALS – ASSOCIATED WITH GOING TO CHURCH.**

**HOPE FOR CHANGE IN ROLE OF WOMEN – ORDINATION – WOMEN PRIESTS- DEACONS – ADMINISTRATORS – EQUALITY WOMEN’S ABILITY GIVES HOPE**

**HOPE FOR BETTER RELATIONSHIP WITH LAITY – INCLUSION – COLLABORATION – TRAINING**

**HOPE IN JESUS – HOLY SPIRIT**

**HOPE CHANGE WILL HAPPEN**

**HOPE IN SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES AS MODEL FOR FUTURE – BACK TO ORIGINS**

**HOPE IN FUTURE INCLUSION OF LGBT AND DIVORCED ETC**

**HOPE FOR MARRIED PRIESTS AND MORE PRIESTS**

**HOPE IN SOCIAL TEACHING OF CHURCH. – MISSION TO POOR - ECOLOGY**

**HOPE IN SYNODAL PATHWAY – WILL BEAR FRUIT – AND WILL BE PROCESS FOR FUTURE**

**HOPE IN YOUTH – THEY WILL EXPERIENCE CONVERSION AND RENEW CHURCH**

**HOPE IN POPE FRANCIS – HE IS A BEACON OF HOPE**

**HOPE IN LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE ABUSE OF THE PAST**

**HOPE IN IMMIGRANTS – WILL RENEW CHURCH. IN IRELAND – FAITH AND JOY**

**HOPE IN CHRISTIAN LEGACY – XIANITY 2,000 YEARS – RICH IRISH HERITAGE – HOPE IN TRADITIONAL PILGRIMAGES – KNOCK( CNOC MHUIRE ) AND CROAGH PATRICK ( CRUACH PHÁDRAIG)**

**HOPE IN MODERN OUTREACH OF CHURCH – SOCIAL MEDIA –  
WEBCAMS**

**HOPE IN CATECHESIS – NEW MINISTRIES**

**HOPE CHURCH LESS LEGALISTIC AND RULE BOUND**

**FEAR OF NO CHANGE – REMAIN SAME**

**FEAR OF NO PRIESTHOOD**

**FEAR OF LOSS OF CHRISTIAN FAITH AND HERITAGE**

**FEAR YOUTH ARE LOST TO CHURCH - ALIENATED**

**FEAR OF IRRELEVANCE**

**FEAR THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE ON POSITION OF WOMEN**

**FEAR OF MORE ABUSE/ SCANDALS**

**FEAR OF LACK OF ENGAGEMENT WITH LAITY**

**FEAR OF LACK OF CONTINUED EXCLUSION OF LGBT -  
DIVORCED**

**FEAR OF POPE FRANCIS PASSING – VISION NOT REALISED –  
REVERSED**

**FEAR NO CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

**FEAR OF UNCERTAIN FUTURE.**

**WHAT MIGHT THE HOLY SPIRIT BE INDICATING IN THIS?**

THAT THE FAITHFUL LOVE AND CARE ABOUT THEIR CHURCH  
THEY ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED FOR ITS FUTURE.  
THEY SEE THIS TIME AS BEING CRITICAL TO ITS SURVIVAL IN  
IRELAND.

THEY TREASURE THEIR SHARED FAITH EXPERIENCE  
AND PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND ROLE OF  
CHURCH IN WORLD.

**THEY SEE CHANGE AS BEING CRITICAL TO THE SURVIVAL OF  
WHAT THEY TREASURE**

WHILE THEY HOPE IN POPE FRANCIS - OVERALL  
THEY HAVE DEEP CONCERNS ABOUT THE LEADERSHIP OF  
THE CHURCH - AND WONDER WILL IT CHANGE – WILL IT COME  
TOO LATE. IS IT ABLE TO CONNECT WITH ORDINARY PEOPLE.

THEY ARE DEEPLY UPSET ABOUT THE LOSS OF THE YOUTH  
AND THE LACK OF INCLUSION OF LAITY AND WOMEN AND  
MARGINAL GROUPS SUCH AS LGBT AND DIVORCED.

THEY SEE THE EQUAL ROLE OF WOMEN IN MINISTRY AND  
ADMINISTRATION AS ESSENTIAL TO CHANGE AND GROWTH -  
EVEN SURVIVAL.

**THE PROCESS SHOWS/ SUGGESTS THAT THE PEOPLE OF GOD  
KNOW WHAT IS NEEDED AND WOULD LEAD THE HIERARCHY  
INTO THE FUTURE IF ALLOWED AND IF HEARD.**

SIGNED	DATE
<p>Pádraigín Clancy Animator St Michael's Parish and Chair of Synodal Process in Oblate Pastoral Area Inchicore.</p> <p>Derek Bunyan St Michael's Parish. Animator.</p>	<p>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022</p>