



# Synod Feedback Form

NAME OF PARISH	NAME OF PASTORAL GROUPING
Brackenstown Parish, Swords	
VENUE OF GATHERINGS	IN PERSON OR ZOOM
Parish Pastoral Centre + Questionnaires	In person
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS (1 <sup>st</sup> Gathering)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS (2 <sup>nd</sup> Gathering)
56	N/A

## THE JOYS

WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?	No.	WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?	No.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being part of a welcoming, diverse, parish/faith community with great spirit and energy, which gives a sense of being part of family of God</li> <li>• Importance of Eucharist/prayer/active involvement in liturgy and ministry</li> <li>• Participation in small faith- based groups</li> <li>• Extra services in Parish (Taizé/rosary/daily prayer/ online services)</li> <li>• Leadership of Pope Francis</li> <li>• Commitment of local clergy</li> <li>• Christian message of love, hope, and salvation and the joy and comfort of knowing Gods love through personal gift of faith</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Church social justice roles</li> <li>• Beautiful church interior and statues as aids to prayer</li> </ul>	

### THE SORROWS

WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?	No.	WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?	No.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate and slow response to abuse and collateral damage</li> <li>• Loss of trust in organisation</li> <li>• Lack of interest in religion especially among young and failure to pass on faith in family and school</li> <li>• Numbers leaving church and age profile of attendees</li> <li>• Shortage of priests and drop in vocations</li> <li>• Failure to advance role of women</li> <li>• Lack of inclusion/ compassion for some groups</li> <li>• None or poor standard of faith formation/catechesis especially for laity</li> <li>• Laity not given opportunity to participate meaningfully</li> <li>• Poor communication of Christian message and church teachings at all levels including in media</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Division over celibacy</li> <li>• Lack of respect and reverence in church</li> <li>• Lack of sound teaching and leadership from bishops</li> <li>• Reduction of religious education in schools</li> <li>• Church teaching from apostolic time cannot change /traditions cannot change</li> <li>• Contradictions /inconsistency in application of church teaching</li> <li>• Failures in Irish church</li> <li>• No Church charity to assist disabled babies</li> <li>• Witness to faith not translating to mission</li> <li>• Church battling against secularism</li> <li>• Failure to produce good English translations of lectionary and bible</li> </ul>	

### THE HOPES

WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?	No.	WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?	No.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Synodal process and outcome sowing seeds for future with a more fit for purpose church</li> <li>• Pope Francis leadership</li> <li>• More involvement of laity and women in authority roles</li> <li>• Improved communication /Increased use of modern communication methods</li> <li>• Power of prayer/Christian values and message of Jesus in gospels</li> <li>• Activity in parish</li> <li>• Increasing Interest in prayer groups/scripture</li> <li>• Youth involvement initiatives increasing and also contribution of new Irish</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Church is permanent and everlasting /current situation is temporary</li> <li>• Church interiors reconfigured to better reflect community gathering to pray together</li> <li>• More Interfaith initiatives</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drive and commitment of clergy</li> <li>• Social justice activity</li> <li>• Energy of 'new Irish' communities</li> <li>• More and new ways of nurturing faith/evangelising</li> </ul>			
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### THE FEARS

WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND CONVERGE?	No.	WHAT EXPERIENCES ARE NAMED AND DIVERGE?	No.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure of Synod to listen and hear</li> <li>• Lack of leadership by bishops and failure to support Pope Francis</li> <li>• No change in role of women and laity</li> <li>• No change in authority structure</li> <li>• Lack of vocations leading to closure of churches and loss of services</li> <li>• Continued failure to pass on faith</li> <li>• Ongoing inadequate faith formation/catechises for laity and especially young</li> <li>• Failure to modernise structures/processes/practices/communication /Traditions while preserving core teachings</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fear of change</li> <li>• Change leading to loss of long held traditions /services and watering down of gospel message</li> <li>• Splits and internal divisions in Irish church</li> <li>• Secular society with no faith</li> <li>• Church becoming a charity not a teaching church</li> <li>• Government interference</li> <li>• Conservatives resist modernisation</li> <li>• Rise of virulent feminism</li> </ul>	

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

### WHAT THEMES ARE EMERGING FROM THE GATHERING?

- Huge importance of local faith community and Parish and need to support and give tools to strengthen individual faith and the mission to evangelise
- Importance of prayer and range of Parish faith services to spiritual life
- Importance of leadership of Pope Francis
- Urgent need for updated focus on ongoing faith formation for the laity and training for Ministers
- Need to engage with modern world/ young people in realistic way by adapting current practices, language, teaching of scripture, communication, etc whilst preserving core beliefs.
- Urgency to expand outreach and in particular to address exclusion of certain groups
- That the role of the laity is expanded and that position of women is addressed
- Status quo is not an option for future of church

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

The Synod is an opportunity to refashion all aspects of the Church to reflect needs of today while respecting overall Christian message and core articles of faith. Change is needed and by listening closely the Church will find a way forward that will respond to the views of the people of God and help them meet the challenges of today including the key mission to evangelise.