

Updated 12/06/24

Summarised synod discussions Spring 2024

Group 1. JM (6 in group) 1/5/24

Group 2. AW (3 in group) 7/5/24

Group 3. AA (5 in group) 14/5/24

Group 4. AWY (4 in group) 29/05/24

18 in total – includes group facilitator of each group

Parish group suggestions / discussions:

Most groups discussed the need for parishioners to become more involved with helping in the life and organisation of the parish. However, the laity need more Instruction as they take on a bigger role in the church.

People feel part of a community by coming to Mass - how can we develop this further?

Concerns expressed about older, possibly isolated, parishioners and the risks of them dying alone without parish support. Positives of Covid noted by another group – phone calling parishioners to check up on them (we all liked it); summaries of parishioners in the newsletter.

The parish website could be more user friendly and easier to navigate to find information people are looking for.

Social events that include all ages.

Parish group prayer - worship possibilities:

Would be nice to have special services to pray for peace

More parish renewal events would be popular.

Monthly rosary before Mass led by a parishioner and / or Monthly Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Help with how to pray. *Learning to Pray* by James Martin was mentioned.

Have talks from outside speakers

Small groups coming together to discuss topics.

Better mix of old and new hymns to cater for all ages.

Personal Piety:

Use technology, e.g. have podcasts and short reflections on the parish website

Encourage parishioners to use prayer apps such as *Hallow* and *Laudate*

Encourage more prayer / the rosary. *Rosary at the Lighthouse* was good.

Scriptures and reading:

Deepen our own faith by returning to scripture, reading the bible. Encourage scripture study groups. Read the Gospels, use *Bible Alive* as an aid.

Updated 12/06/24

Listening to St Mark's Gospel events were enjoyed – it would be good to have more of these.

Sermons on the meaning of the scriptures.

The parish Book Club was seen as a way of developing faith and understanding.

Reading relevant texts even if not part of a book club.

Children & young people:

Future of the church is the families of now.

Practically: Involve children in all tasks at Sunday Mass – assist pass keepers, readings & bidding prayers, offertory procession, sing in the choir, music group.

Ideally from those interested children growing into teenagers form a Youth section of parish council.

Support altar servers - a night out possibly?

A children's Mass? Do prayers or songs?

It would be good for parishioners to see and study the religious syllabus that the children are using so that they understand more about what is being taught.

Ecumenism:

Be interested, understand more about other religions.

Encourage participation in Ecumenical groups.

Other comments:

Idea of renew as refresh – felt that Covid brought us a time of profound change: a loss of community, and actual loss of parishioners.

See what works well for other parishes – adopt best practice

Better integration with the Polish community - music groups?

Difficult issues within the church that need to be openly discussed about how we deal with acceptance within the church:

- LGBTQ+
- Women priests
- Married priests

Bombardment of negative world issues within the media, the church is needed and necessary to remind us of the positives and the sense of community

Listen more

Make Jesus more visible, glorify