

Updated 12/06/24

LONGER Synthesis of 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:

Encourage parishioners to help where it is most needed and trust them then to do these jobs.

Strong feelings that lay people must take on more roles in the parish to assist the Parish Priest – encourages feelings of “our parish”.

Need to think about the laity and how to use them; felt that as a group we could support many elements of the Mass

Time, talent and treasure – can we ask everyone what they can offer – what talents have we got? What time could we give? And what can we donate to when we have money?

Women are not being fully utilised in the Church.

The laity need more Instruction as they take on a bigger role in the church.

Service to others is a way of making Jesus more visible in the world

Join groups already helping others, e.g. SVDP, lunch club, lifts to Mass

Find a way to help newcomers to the parish feel more welcome.

Welcome table after Mass; name badge to show you're a welcome minister

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

Pastoral care for all parishioners and parish priest is important – everyone needs additional support at times.

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

Concerns expressed about older, possibly isolated, parishioners (maybe sole Catholic in a non-practising family) and the risks of them dying alone without parish support.

What is the system for contacting a hospital chaplain or receiving Sacrament of the Sick if you have no advocate?

Positives of Covid – phone calling parishioners to check up on them (we all liked it); summaries of parishioners in the newsletter.

Social events that include all ages.

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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.

Monthly Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament – use as an opportunity for quiet prayer together as a parish (need to encourage quiet during these events – via the newsletter).

Have talks from outside speakers

Help with how to pray – this might be a good subject for a talk. *Learning to Pray* by James Martin was mentioned.

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.

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.

Encourage scripture study groups.

Read the Gospels, use *Bible Alive* as an aid.

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 – we need to reflect our values through families, parents face many conflicts and challenges what the correct message is; we have to rely on the singular message that God is Love – how do we represent this love?

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.

Priority of Catholic families to get into Catholic schools – can church be more involved in supporting this process?

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Need to be realistic about what the world is – children need to be knowledgeable, and accepting of aspects of the church; but the church needs to also support changes in society too and this needs to be reflected in the church

Inter-generational trauma – covers so many of our experiences as we are the in-between era that accepted our faith from our parents, but now we have to find a justification of our faith for the younger generation. We all felt repressed by our catholic upbringing and feel that we have become different with our children to keep the options open for them to come back to the faith; finding creative ways to keep our faith open and alive in discussion with our children

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. Need to come to a place of acceptance that we need to grieve for aspects of the parish that we've lost through Covid. A time of change would be accepted as we are in a time of flux after Covid and we want change

SMM's congregation was noted to have increasing numbers of young people and greater ethnic diversity.

Use of many languages to reflect the growing diversity of the wider Parish

See what works well for other parishes – adopt best practice

Better integration with the Polish community - music groups?

Use of the hall, could we use the hall for baby and parent groups; youth groups etc.

Drop some outdated traditions (not specified)

Role of Indulgences discussed by another group.

People would be uncomfortable attempting direct evangelisation

Essence of our faith is important to us but we still feel unable to express our religious beliefs in more mixed company (in the work place) as it is perceived as antiquated in its views

Edinburgh City Council – concerned to see the removal of non-representation from the board, cutting down of Catholic voice

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

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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