

FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH
FEEDBACK
SESSION 2: PARTICIPATION
25 JANUARY 2022

IV. Celebrating

Do our celebrations in Church inspire a deeper encounter with the risen Lord? How does my prayer – both individually and in my community – enable my participation in the mission of the Church? Is the Eucharist the centre of mine, and my community's life? What flows from the Sunday (or daily) Eucharist, from our communities into the world? What do I give thanks to God for in prayer? What do I seek from him?

- Going to Mass gives you spiritual and physical joy, serenity and comfort and makes you feel good about coming to Mass
- Always striving to get close to God and the Eucharist prepares to inspire us to inspire the people we meet
- Celebrations inspire a deeper encounter
- Communion makes us feel closer to God. Reminds us of the risen Lord and that our sins are forgiven. Joyous feeling
- Great sense of joy and peace when you go to mass – share with God all that has gone right and wrong in the week and mass untangle all the mess – because you have shared your burdens with the Lord you realise that it is not the end of the world – your burdens can be managed. It's an opportunity to get closer to God and get the 'mess' out our mind. When you leave the mass, he is still with us.
- At peace with the Holy Spirit
- Only part of the mass is 'Celebration' -the consecration and communion which is joyous and the rest of the mass is an instruction on how to spend the rest of the week.
- Can't understand the Old Testament – is it relevant today?
- How can the deeper relationship with Christ often experienced in group sharing be found in the Mass
- Very moving and deep encounter in the prayer service for Ethiopia
- Lectio Divina has a very powerful role in creating a deeper encounter with Christ at Sunday Mass, through having a deeper understanding of the Word of God
- Singing in church is good especially when the congregation join in. Enhances the mass.
- How can the deeper relationship with Christ often experienced in group sharing be found in the Mass
- There is much to celebrate in SHC; so many nationalities but with one faith
- There are things to be worked on but we must keep trying
- St Augustine says when you sing you pray twice
- Gloria and Holy, Holy, Holy is joyful
- Music after communion is distracting
- Most like the idea of singing responses to the Priest

- Lovely when the congregation sings: how to encourage that more,
- Should the choir be in the congregation ?
- Being in church is happy and fulfilling- an obligation – legacy of parents. Loves starting the day celebrating mass
- Congregation comes into one voice and blends into one Spirit.
- Sense of calm and peace. Time in church is so special because you confide in and feel the Holy Spirit. Can feel God's presence and a great sense of community
- Sharing sign of Peace brings the community together
- Of all the liturgies Benediction gives the most joy – even more than going to mass. Pity the attendance at Benediction is so poor. Benediction brings you closer to God – even comes across magnificently on zoom. The blessing and adding the incense is such a blessing.
- Our body prays – most children join in using their body. Emotions play an important part in celebrating mass.
- The homily stays in our mind for a long time after mass. We are all children of God – no favourites. Share with others what you have heard.
- Involve other people – leave mass strengthened in faith. Go out into the world feeling revitalised and strengthened.
- The Eucharist is the centre of our lives – going to church explains scripture. Bring it into daily life
- Scripture is the focal point of mass
- Enjoys online masses and listening to different interpretations of the same gospel.
- Thank God for all one has, health, food to eat and a roof over our head. Don't take anything for granted. Thank God for children, husband, friends and family and ask for help and assistance. We are nothing without God.
- We have freedom to make choices.
- Give thanks for freedom to go to mass, there is such a shortage of priests. We are blessed at SHC because we have an abundance of priests. We are blessed to live in a country that tolerates all religions.

STATEMENT:THE CHURCH IS GOOD AT CELEBRATING THE DEPTH AND BREADTH OF OUR FAITH

- **Overall : Agree ****

V. Co-responsibility in the Mission

Do I understand the mission of the Church - in my own life, in the local church, and the universal church? How do our lives relate to the Great Commission of Jesus (Matt 28:18-20*)? What formation do I need to be more committed to the mission of the Church? What impact is our local community making in the area – do we make a difference?

- Universal church should make more use of the internet and TV to bring people closer to God for example, Fr Andrew's discussion with two other denominations discussing faith. Stephan Wang, podcasts – or a Catholic Billy Graham

- The last thing that Father says in the Mass after the blessing is to take the Gospel to the world.
- The passage read (Matt 28:18-20) is the start of the Christian church and is the fundamental message from God to Jesus who then gave mankind the authority and request to go out and be disciples. Men and women, there is no discrimination – Should put the passage in large letters as you leave the church.
- St Francis said “Go and preach the gospel and if you must, use words. “Preach by our actions.
- We should bring God to others and reach out. SHC is beginning to make a difference to the community
- Muslims are always happy to talk about their religion and feasts
- Our churches have a misconception about the Catholic Church – they don’t understand why we pray to Mary and have statues in our churches and homes, also why don’t we have more women clergy.
- All churches have the same aim – to be with our Lord
- God loves all mankind – no matter what your religion
- Catholics go to Mass every Sunday – not only when we ‘feel like it’
- Evangelization is not for everyone, have deep faith but can’t evangelise, easier to talk one to one. We must remember that there are many gifts of the Holy Spirit. Our actions will show our faith.
- There is a lot of material available about how to go about our mission; we have to take the initiative and always try to continue to do our best
- Action is needed; more outreach.
- More formation needed on how to talk about our faith e.g Alpha, plus our studies on Laudato Si’, Human Trafficking , Fratelli Tutti and Lectio Divina
- More and more needs to be done; we can only continue to try.
- Support people selling the Big Issue. Important to give time and support to the poor. Show kindness
- Charities are good to support. We can learn so much by having different charities come and speak to us at Church e.g learned so much about prisoners by having someone talk about it at church.
- Put words into action – people in care homes are grateful if you share your faith.
- We must remember that if the Disciples said it was too hard to evangelize, we wouldn’t be here today.
- Today’s society is very different compared to years gone by – not as easy to get youngsters to follow us in our faith
- A parishioner was moved seeing someone praying at their father’s death bed and converted to Catholicism; You don’t always know when you are evangelising.

STATEMENT : THE CHURCH IS GOOD AT EMPOWERING A SENSE OF MISSION

- **Overall : Agree ****

VI . Dialogue in Church and Society

How do we understand dialogue (respectful conversation) between Church and the wider Society? Do we see dialogue as a unique contribution that the Church can make to the world? How do we address the challenges that dialogue brings about? How do we begin to dialogue with others?

- Pope Francis is wonderful – speaks out on all subjects and sets an example for us all – wonderful how he communicates and listens to all religions
- Alpha is wonderful even though it was not started by Catholics – it is non-threatening and inclusive of young and old – we can learn lots from other churches and also share our faith with them but there must be respect between the different churches.
- The food bank collections were dropped off at Methodist church – good rapport when dropping off the food
- Ecumenical meetings and shared services, so much to learn through dialogue.
- Listen; the Catholic Church can give the impression that it has the answers to everything
- Some people think our church is a type of cult. With our views on abortion, contraception
- We need to see more inter denominational activities
- Be open, be respectful and follow through on conversations started
- We don't see many young people in church
- Catholic Church can be viewed negatively by some members of society for historic reasons; we have a chance to change that now ; difficult but not impossible.
- The value of different faiths working together can be seen by the end of apartheid in South Africa; real political change brought about; the Catholic Church will always fight injustice.
- Pope Francis is inspired by dialogue and people listen to him, whether they agree or not
- We must try to emulate him.

STATEMENT : THE CHURCH IS GOOD AT DIALOGUE WITH THE WIDER COMMUNITY

- **Overall : Agree ****

VII. Dialogue with Church and other Christian denominations.

What is our relationship with other Christian communities? Do we listen to each other as we journey on our pilgrim way? What enriches us from other traditions? What do we offer them from ours?

- There are formal occasions for dialogue but more is need at an informal level
- Surely this is within the last question?
- Other Christian denominations can find dialogue difficult too.

- Ecumenical outreach can be difficult as people are often committed to their own church and belief.
- Catholic Church poor at reaching out to mixed ecumenical groups; there are big issues to be addressed e.g women priests.
- We need to reach out to other faith groups at both laity and clerical levels e.g. Churches Together.
- Only Catholics seem to think that they are the only church.
- Look to St Francis
- Look to the Bible “...where one or more are gathered in My Name”.
- SHC is reaching out but the church has a long way to go
- What did we do for Christian Unity Week ?
- How to engage better when there are so many divides in Christian churches
- No church is perfect, but people have made choices regardless and enjoy the support of their church
- Even with low membership in some countries, the Catholic Church can be seen as a threat to other national churches
- But we can grow so we should not be discouraged; in many parts of the world Catholicism represents betterment so we should be positive
- Never has the Holy Spirit been needed more

STATEMENT : THE CHURCH IS GOOD AT BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER DENOMINATIONS

- **Overall : Neither Agree nor disagree****

Statements were answered in groups, responding from 1-5.

1 Strongly disagree

2 Disagree

3 Neither agree nor disagree

4 Agree

5 Strongly agree