



SYNOD RESOURCES - 6

Feeding back

Introduction

The Synodal Process we are undertaking is guided by a fundamental question:

How does 'journeying together' take place today on different levels (from the local level to the universal one), allowing the Church to proclaim the Gospel? And, what steps is the Spirit inviting us to take in order to grow as a synodal Church? (PD 2)

As everyone journeys together, listening first to the Lord in their heart and then speaking openly and listening with each other, we learn to hear the voice of the Lord speaking to us.

In our Archdiocese, Archbishop John is inviting everyone to respond to the invitation of Pope Francis and take part in the initial diocesan listening phase of the Synod. Each local parish is asked to host a meeting, or series of meetings, where conversations about the Church's mission in the life of the parish and the diocese can be prayerfully examined; and where the will of the Lord can be discerned, as we seek to grow in faith and number.

This document offers a simple template for recording the parish listening meetings which can also be used in schools with older children and teachers, as well as in other settings. It is intended to be used with the other Synod resources (prayer, questions and group facilitation) available on the diocesan Synod page.

Please remember that each one of us is encouraged to share with honesty and openness about our real-life experiences, and to reflect on what the Holy Spirit might be saying to the Church at this time.

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Scriptural Reflection

Which passage of Scripture was used to guide and inspire the meeting?

John 16::12-15

What were some of the key phrases, thoughts and comments shared? Was there a thread in what was shared?

Communion

Please list which questions were used. If you reflected on questions other than those offered on the diocesan website, please provide them here as well.

Date	Question Number	Question
	1	What are the ways in which St Joseph's parish most successfully brings people together?
	2	In which areas of parish life (liturgical, charitable, social etc.) does your parish feel and act as one?
	3	In which areas of parish life (liturgical, charitable, social etc.) are you able to discern the presence and movement of the Holy Spirit?
	??	What ways to build community
	8	How to relate to members of the church who have drifted away
	??	How do people with difficulties participate.
	9	How does your parish relate to other parishes nearby and the diocese as a whole?

What were some of the key phrases, thoughts and comments shared? Was there a thread or consensus in what was shared?

St Joseph's New Malden is a large vibrant parish that has ethnic and national groups from all round the world, with particularly large numbers from Korea and the Philippines

There are four Sunday Masses each with a different feel or culture: non-music Mass; Family Mass with Childrens liturgy, Traditional Mass; & Youth Mass.

Before the pandemic there was daily praying of the rosary a number of different prayer groups, cell groups

The Parish has many activities aimed at the youth: sacramental programmes; cubs & scouts; youth groups for teenagers.

The Pandemic initiated online parish activities: live streamed Mass, online prayer groups; online Bible Study groups.

St Joseph's New Malden is very ecumenical, with Joint services in Lent, Walk of witness on Good Friday, Kingston Churches Against Homelessness, Street Pastors.

Parish has a close link with catholic schools.

Pre-pandemic the parish help parish pilgrimages, monthly parish lunches, yearly International lunch

Communion Feedback

The question numbers in the feedback below are from the “What is Synod” PowerPoint presentation.

Date	Question Number	Question and feedback
	1	What are the ways in which St Joseph’s parish most successfully brings people together?
11Nov21	1	<p>A large diversity of different groups, different masses on a Sunday. Daily Mass Evening Mass on days of obligation Online Masses</p> <p>Charitable, eg the SVP</p> <p>Encourage people to practice faith outside of Sunday: prayer groups cell group, prayer groups,</p> <p>Use parishioners with particular skills to help with practical issues, people available for all stages in life</p> <p>A vibrant & welcoming parish</p> <p>Many people run many of the groups: Prayer groups, Cell group, Bible studies</p> <p>Others parishes not active not sociable</p> <p>Lockdown has enabled zoom etc Sunday Rosary online</p> <p>International Lunch celebrating the different nationalities in the parish</p> <p>Pentecostal churches are warm and welcoming often not the case with RC parishes.</p> <p>Rich music ministry</p> <p>Rosary as walked towards shrine across river</p> <p>Lucky to live in a vibrant parish</p>
18Nov21	1	<p>Many different groups aimed at different ages and interests: Clubs scouts UCM prayer gp, etc A sense of community Compared with former parish who were not protective, new group are setup Brings us together in Mass & Sacraments The small gps make an enormous difference.</p> <p>New parishioner felt welcomed when he arrived.</p>

Date	Question Number	Question and feedback
		St Joseph's is receptive to new ideas such as the setup of Legion of Mary
18Nov21	1	St Joseph's New Malden is very Ecumenical Joint services in Lent Walk of witness on Good Friday
18Nov21	1	We have had an international lunch with food from different cultures.
23Nov21	1	<p>The great thing about the church is multi-cultural diversity - welcomes everybody. Seen to be a successful church. Success breeds success and so more people want to come along.</p> <p>We are a welcoming community. We could do more, but if we weren't welcoming, we wouldn't have such a diverse community. Even weekday masses are well attended. Catholic church is universal - you can go anywhere in the world and it is exactly the same (same readings etc) which brings people together.</p> <p>The extension of having catholic schools nearby. What kept us here was that our children went to those schools. It helped build the community.</p> <p>Parish has a close link with catholic schools - it draws them in, and once they come to the church they stay. Even in their 30s the children still have a connection to the community. Helps to keep people together and close. Adds an extra dimension to the school and the parish, improving both.</p> <p>Prayer groups brought a number of people together to discuss the teachings of the church. Very successful. When it broke into smaller groups these continued to be together. Were very positive. Do we need to bring these back together?</p>
23Nov21	1	<p>Kingston Churches Against Homelessness - involvement with making meals etc. shows we are a caring parish helping the needy.</p> <p>Fundraising activities bring people physically together.</p> <p>Coming to Mass</p> <p>9.30am coffee after Mass</p> <p>Social group post-Parish Mission - never really got off the ground.</p> <p>People don't always want to get involved.</p> <p>Variations in types of Masses - 9.30am aimed at families, 11.30am traditional, 5.30pm charismatic.</p> <p>Online meetings, prayer groups, Bible study - vital through pandemic. But wouldn't reach people who don't use computers or are short on time.</p> <p>Nice if Parish had a full view of all different groups. Aim is to put contact details of groups on the website.</p>

Date	Question Number	Question and feedback
		<p>Pilgrimages.</p> <p>Sacramental preparation - RCIA, Baptism, Communion,</p> <p>Not everyone fully understands the significance of the Mass. Church could give more instruction, e.g. Catechism, to help us understand it better. Catechism courses are immensely valuable - especially to those brought up Catholic. You appreciate the gift more as an adult. Useful to have different perspectives. Builds sense of community and understanding of what God has given us.</p> <p>Spiritual life has improved during the Pandemic. It has presented an opportunity.</p> <p>We need to be fed, spiritually. Groups are fine - but we need the spiritual aspect. We are working towards eternal life. If we forget that, we are wasting our time here on earth. God wants us to be more spiritual.</p> <p>Spiritual retreats.</p>
27Nov22	1	<p>Weekly Sunday Masses, Mass in the morning. Pre-pandemic, we had a number of gatherings outside of Mass.</p> <p>Mass on Sundays and social events - especially the lunches on Sundays were really good. Music brings people together (we've managed to do this very well).</p> <p>Cell groups meet regularly as well as the Monday prayer group - these kept going through the pandemic via Zoom. 80 people joined the life in the Spirit seminars!</p> <p>Live streams of the mass were important during the pandemic - it helped people to feel they were still in touch. Especially those who are housebound.</p> <p>Teas and Coffees after mass were very popular. You could have a quick chat with people - it really brought people together.</p> <p>The Lenten fair (both the event and people setting it up together) and the international day brought people together.</p> <p>While mass brings us together spiritually, the lack of sign-of-peace (during the pandemic) means we don't even look at each other (we need to do it outside).</p> <p>Meeting outside after mass - we're encouraged to disperse so people don't stay and chat</p> <p>Food bank collections were good (this stopped with the pandemic)</p> <p>Lent and advent charities - a lot of thought goes into these. Raising money for two charities each time: one in the UK and one abroad.</p>

Date	Question Number	Question and feedback
30Nov21	1	<p>Groups support each other Having four diff type of Mass on Sunday The 0700 Mass on weekdays was greatly appreciated Have Masses online has been a great help – spurred me on to read the bible more (still wary of attending in person.)</p> <p>Older people who are not housebound didn’t have internet and missed out on Mass Good to have the Fri Coffee morning back During lockdown able to join Cell Gp and Monday Prayer Gp, following retirement able to continue this.</p> <p>Good that we have diff Cell Groups, & Bible study Groups</p> <p>Anything missing in the parish?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities for young people particularly after Confirmation. • Could do more pilgrimages. Its good to go in groups. • Justice and Peace group.
Paper forms	1	<p>The multi-cultural welcome to the church The church is successful & so n more introspection please.</p> <p>The make-up of the parish community is muti-nationa & diverse and a large parish so groups form & journey together because of different needs ages backgrounds, according to stages of spiritual life. The parish has been & still is served & ministered to by a variety of parishioners in many ways. Volunteers bring people together.</p> <p>I’ve always felt St Joseph’s to be a very vibrant community & have enjoyed some good community celebrations including multi-cultural parties, priests’ achievement parties, mission celebrations, etc. There also seem to have been many varied groups catering for all ages & subjects (scouts, guides, youth, RCIA, Justice & Peace, cell groups, mothers’ groups, etc).</p> <p>For m it is always the daily Mass, and a parish priest being available. Very important are the prayer groups, Bible study and brings people to feel that they belong together, that they are a “community”.</p> <p>Through various groups, eg cell groups, Follow Me Bible study, prayer groups. Also through support for programmes such as the Life in the Spirit Seminars. These allow people from different backgrounds and circumstances to share their understanding of their faith.</p>

Date	Question Number	Question and feedback
		<p>Through Welcomers at Mass, I believe their warmth and friendliness is very important in making Mass-goers feel they ‘belong’, even when an occasional Mass is the only contact with the parish.</p> <p>Good vibrant music at mass where people can join in. Course like: the Gift, Follow me.</p> <p>Lots of groups to suit different age groups tests etc. Parish social events (pre-covid) like quizzes, St Patrick’s celebrations are well attended..</p>
	2	In which areas of parish life (liturgical, charitable, social etc.) does your parish feel and act as one?
23Nov21	2	<p>Charitable: the parish acts as one. Especially noticeable at Advent and Lent. Fr Uche is a splendid priest and acts as a focal point for them. We have 4 masses on a Sunday - they each have their own character. Most people stick to the same Mass. Not a bad thing - no point to have 4 masses the same. It gives people a choice to find something which they prefer. We’re fortunate to have masses every day and 4 on Sunday. Are we missing out on a community by not having masses in other languages? Maybe Polish? You get to see a different group of people and see how they behave and do things - but still beautiful in their own way. E.g. In a past Nigerian Mass, there was song and dance while doing the procession. The international day is a nice gathering that brings different communities together and makes people feel they are part of it. Universality of the Mass - when we’re in a foreign country, even if you don’t speak the language, you can understand where you are in the mass and what is happening. Teas and Coffees after mass are great to bring people in and welcome new families. Was part of a Nigerian Mass here - didn’t understand it, but it was a very spiritual experience. People worshipping showed great faith in God and the Holy Spirit. When we have Ecumenical people here, it is very embarrassing for the Priest to have to say that the RC church is the only true one. It can make it difficult for Ecumenical people who are attending. E.g. they cannot receive communion.</p>
24Nov21	2	<p>Lenten and Advent appeals - we act as one charitably. People have been fluid with which Mass they attend these days. Learn to appreciate different ways of worship.</p> <p>Before the pandemic, Mass selection was more rigid. People wouldn’t necessarily recognise one another from different Masses. Everyone needs to contribute to the life of the Church.</p> <p>Social - international day lunches - welcoming, brought cultural backgrounds together.</p>
	3	In which areas of parish life (liturgical, charitable, social etc.) are you able to discern the presence and movement of the Holy Spirit?

Date	Question Number	Question and feedback
23Nov21	3	<p>Difficult one. Especially after Covid when we've not been together. As the Pandemic has run its course and people perceive the threat has gone down - things are very slowly returning to normal. Every week more and more people are returning.</p> <p>Live streaming really helped people together. It was great to have the live streaming from within the church - which made it seem more familiar and spiritual experience. As mentioned earlier - the Nigerian Mass was very moving. The Holy spirit was certainly there.</p>
	??	What ways to build community
11Nov21		Prayer on the Street group is being setup; an initiative by a parishioner working with the other Churches in New Malden.
	8	How to relate to members of the church who have drifted away
11Nov21	8	Difficult not sure how to engage with such people
23Nov21	8	<p>We need to talk about it. It might help, if done in the right way. Be more open, less judgmental. We should try to support them and find out why.</p> <p>We need to be forgiving - we all make mistakes.</p> <p>Non-Mass service in the parish. There seems to be a need to have services where people can engage with one another. Draw people in and welcome them back. Stepping stone towards Mass attendance.</p> <p>To attract people - inspirational speakers at Church.</p> <p>Monday night prayer group - no set structure, but someone gives a short talk on their experience of faith to start things off.</p> <p>If they can hear from someone inspirational, it could help. Plant the seed.</p> <p>Music - bring people in, especially for young people. Choirs, recitals.</p> <p>Baptist Church - toddlers group, let's sit down and talk, pray. Not all of it, but a part of it. Mothers usually. Once a month, the other parent brings them.</p> <p>Not all activities overtly Catholic. Though there could be some religious aspect.</p> <p>Scout group - once a term at 9.30am Mass they'd come and process in Mass. Good to bring people in.</p> <p>Covid - social distancing on sides and no restrictions in the central aisles. Brings people</p>

Date	Question Number	Question and feedback
		together. Caters to all. Everyone feels comfortable in their space.
30Nov21	8	personal conversations with people. Have prayer service(s) particularly for people who have left church Confirmandi often leave after the course finishes Pentecostals CofE etc often have services for these age groups.
	??	How do people with difficulties participate.
11Nov21		People with hearing difficulties have access to loop system to wirelessly connect wit the sound system. Old people often cannot hear mass
	9	How does your parish relate to other parishes nearby and the diocese as a whole?
30Nov21	9	no parish links with Deanery

Participation

Please list which questions were used. If you reflected on questions other than those offered on the diocesan website, please provide them here as well.

1	Reflecting on 16 months of the pandemic, how has participation in St Joseph's parish been affected? Were these issues there before?
2	How can participation be strengthened moving forward into the future?
4	which people & groups are least included in parish
5	How can you broaden the way you include people whilst keeping always true to the Gospel and our core Christian identity?
7	How can we better enable full participation in the life of the Church at the parish and diocesan levels?
9	How do families and young people effectively participate in the life of your parish? What do you do to support them?

What were some of the key phrases, thoughts and comments shared? Was there a thread or consensus in what was shared?

The main thing is that the pandemic kept people away. It still does as they don't feel able to or can't come to Mass. E.g. Highly shielded.

Some people have just got used to not coming - or going to virtual Mass via YouTube.

You can hear some amazing words and great sermons, but the Eucharist is something we believe in as Catholics and that is/was missing from virtual Mass.

Many virtual groups were set up: prayer groups , cell groups, bible study, virtual choir.

Participation increased through live streaming. Groups meeting online.

Main problem - people who don't use computers may become isolated. Communication made, but didn't last that long in many cases. Could do with another focus.

Phone to hear Mass. An alternative to internet access. Conference call.

People need t feel encouraged & confident to return.

We also need to return to our vibrant social celebrations.

And importantly, we need to be allowed to sing in praise to God, something a lot of people feel strongly about.

Though there are many youth activities they revolve around sacramental programmes , this leave certain age groups without anything. Teenager Youth groups struggle to sustain themselves a year or so after confirmation. Need to identify how to engage children young Family and young single adults.

To cater for groups not currently engaged, blind, deaf, parents of disabled children, retired people
TO re-instate social events: quiz nights, etc.

Remove psychological barriers to those who are new to the church/parish, say hello to someone you don't know. Change the culture, say hello. Balance to be struck - not a social occasion. But too many people who are new and/or alone are missed.

Always have tea and coffee after all Masses (not just the 0930 as we do here). We can then meet and discuss things and find out how people are and so on.

People lead really busy lives - more so now than ever. People shy away from other involvement.

Recognize and make better use of gifts that women may have, particularly in decision making and planning.

Participation Feedback

The question numbers in the feedback below are from the "What is Synod" PowerPoint presentation.

Date	Question Number	Question and feedback
	1	Reflecting on 16 months of the pandemic, how has participation in St Joseph's parish been affected? Were these issues there before?
23Nov21	1	<p>The main thing is that the pandemic kept people away. It still does as they don't feel able to or can't come to Mass. E.g. Highly shielded.</p> <p>Some people have just got used to not coming - or going to virtual Mass via YouTube. You can hear some amazing words and great sermons, but the Eucharist is something we believe in as Catholics and that is/was missing from virtual Mass.</p> <p>Some are unable to come (need a lift, or similar) - How can we help those who would like to come but are unable to. E.g. cannot take public transport.</p> <p>Attendance is somewhat seasonal - e.g. around school entry more people attend - there has to be something about the experience that keeps people involved in the Parish.</p> <p>The church's intention has always been that people should be present. Lots of things have had to stop e.g. you can't have a confession over the phone. This has made the devout people suffer more. E.g. While a lot of people want the Sunday obligation to be reinstated, we can't as there are many people who have medical conditions or similar to attend.</p>
24Nov21	1	<p>Main problem - people who don't use computers may become isolated. Communication made, but didn't last that long in many cases. Could do with another focus.</p> <p>Participation increased through live streaming. Groups meeting online.</p> <p>Phone to hear Mass. An alternative to internet access. Conference call.</p> <p>An unprecedented number of people volunteered to steward during the pandemic, which was both encouraging and humbling.</p> <p>Clusters of people who watch live streaming from other countries. Philippines, Costa</p>

Date	Question Number	Question and feedback
		<p>Rica, Pakistan.</p> <p>Bible Meditation group facilitated by Zoom. Opportunities of technology.</p> <p>Parish suggestion box? Anonymous. People might feel more comfortable doing this than going to priest, stewards.</p> <p>When we come out of COVID, this could help involve people.</p>
Paper forms	1	<p>Prayer groups should not be the personal fiefdoms of it leaders, regretfully Zoom & WhatsApp have encouraged this.</p> <p>Closure of Churches has offered some people participation online while isolating a presence in the church. Attending in Church before was significant & has become less so in covid months. Covid has asked us to journey in new ways.</p> <p>Pandemic has definitely affected the life of the Parish in so many ways. People need t feel encouraged & confident to return. We also need to return to our vibrant social celebrations. And importantly, we need to be allowed to sing in praise to God, something a lot of people feel strongly about.</p> <p>Amazingly, there were some improvements, the technology enabled us to pray and be together during that period.</p> <p>Restrictions around Mass attendance (booking, masks, etc), has reduced attendance numbers; there may not be a return to pre pandemic levels, if people are out of the habit of regular attendance. Online groups (bible study, prayer groups) have been a bonus, enabling attendance when people may not have been able to attend in person.</p> <p>Not being able to: congregate, sing together, to gather after Mass.</p> <p>Lots of group unable to run but gradually returning to normal. As always, the same people volunteer for roles (Welcomers/stewards/ readers/ Catechists) during Covid – the same faces appear.</p>
	2	How can participation be strengthened moving forward into the future?
30Nov21	2	<p>Parish Mission – was not followed up People think that the only service available is Mass, it would be appreciated if other ways of praying were available. KIV service for the covid19 dead, Reconciliation Services,</p> <p>People find St Joseph’s welcoming & spirit filled</p>

Date	Question Number	Question and feedback
		<p>Missing on social activities, ie lack of social events; Bible Study,</p> <p>Each group to give a talk during Mass explaining what they do. Often people misunderstand what each group does, name of groups can be mis-understood (eg Cell groups , UCM).</p> <p>Need to get more people to take the lead</p>
	4	which people & groups are least included in parish
11Nov21	4	<p>not enough groups for young people , though diff to get young people young families involved.</p> <p>To encourage parents to get their children to attend mass</p> <p>A family who came from a restrictive Muslin country were very active in the parish</p> <p>Need to identify how to engage children young Family and young single adults</p> <p>In Ghana – have active priests in the university</p>
18Nov22	4	<p>not enough groups for young people , though difficult to get young people young families involved.</p> <p>To encourage parents to get their children to attend mass</p> <p>A family who came from a restrictive Muslin country were very active in the parish</p> <p>Need to identify how to engage children young Family and young single adults</p> <p>In Ghana – have active priests in the university</p>
	5	How can you broaden the way you include people whilst keeping always true to the Gospel and our core Christian identity?
27Nov21	5	<p>The Gospel is about including people - Christ went out and upset the religious leaders of the time. Not including people is going against the Gospel - so we want to include people without going against our doctrine.</p> <p>The Gospel includes everyone. People come as individuals (not necessarily as a group of activists). We don't exclude anyone really in the Parish. E.g. Someone who is not Catholic - we don't want to change anything about ourselves - we may want to invite others to a mass or adoration.</p>

Date	Question Number	Question and feedback
	7	How can we better enable full participation in the life of the Church at the parish and diocesan levels?
11Nov21	7	<p>What group least involved? Hearing impaired Parents with Toddlers</p> <p>Parents with disabled children (Masses are done in near-by parishes)</p> <p>Lack of social events Nothing for retired people. Such as “Tea Dances” once a month? Once a term? Quiz nights Re-instate social committee? If each group/cell group did one event a year then we could have many evens through the yr.</p>
23Nov23	7	<p>Always have tea and coffee after all Masses (not just the 0930 as we do here). We can then meet and discuss things and find out how people are and so on. People lead really busy lives - more so now than ever. People shy away from other involvement. Come to Mass and fulfil the obligation, but more than that can be really difficult. How do we get more people involved? By example and by encouraging. If someone volunteers for something (e.g. leading FHC or confirmation we should encourage them to get involved). Do we need to have more regular change over in roles? This would mean that people don’t think this is something they have to do for the next 10 years and know they are just signing up for a short stint. But if noone comes forward, then what can you do?</p> <p>How do we get the community together socially? Teas and Coffees are great. Noone is talking to anyone, which is not good. We need to go the extra mile. Even a non-touch sign of peace. New people come into our church and no one actually talks to them which means we’re missing out. We must try and talk to the people we don’t know. Teas and coffees after Mass is a quick fix. The life in the spirit seminars had cheese and biscuits and wine - Some people may have only come for that, but they still came! We should bring the Ordinarians here - can we bring the C of E people here more easily? Can we accommodate them somehow? Our clergy are commissioned in roles (Deacon, EMHC, etc) by the diocese and may not necessarily have the rights to other dioceses or ordinarians. Buckfast Abbey and Ham church has Ordinarians at mass how? The priest must have been given special permission by the Bishop. We need to look at how we can easily welcome ordinates into the Catholic church. We need to get the church ready for this. Evangelisation excludes other Christians and Jews - it should be to the non-believers. Perhaps in 5 years time a good part of the C of E church will want to be under the catholic church - how will we manage to welcome these people. This is crucial to a Synod. Community is key here. Challenges are young people leaving the Church, however young people do want their Children to be brought up as Catholic. We’re missing the young people - the missing decade (20s). Confirmation is the sacrament of exit. Recent funeral brought young people back to the church.</p>

Date	Question Number	Question and feedback
		<p>We used to have barn dances here. The young people remember having fun at these social events and remember their parents doing the same. While young people may have left, a lot of young people will remember that and will feel part of the community. We used to have multi-generational quiz nights etc. It doesn't matter what we do, but it is paramount to do something to make them feel part of the parish. Discussed another Parish in Woking that had so many events. There was a buzz. Everyone was wearing a Mask (no signs or anything but they still did it). And the people were talking with everyone. The Priest stopped us as he knew we weren't from the church and welcomed us. There were things going and wanted to feel part of the Parish.</p> <p>Role of School to get people together - and encourage people back to Mass.</p> <p>Can we not restore the Kiss of peace - we just bow - no physical contact. This brings people together. We're not even looking at each other in Mass (we're almost scared to do so!).</p>
24Nov21	7	<p>Psychological barriers to getting involved. How can you approach someone to get involved?</p> <p>Being a welcoming parish. But we need to allow and encourage people to chat to people after Mass. Otherwise people won't talk, communicate. If someone has a child, encourage them, say well done for looking after the children during Mass. Encourage them to come back.</p> <p>Say hello to someone you don't know. Change the culture, say hello. Balance to be struck - not a social occasion. But too many people who are new and/or alone are missed.</p> <p>Talk to the person next to you for five minutes. Though we need to be respectful, and avoid chatting in the Church.</p> <p>A vibrant website is crucial - draws people in. Needs to be as good as it can be.</p>
27Nov21	7	<p>People like to be approached and asked to help with something. As long as it is not putting their entire responsibility on them. E.g. there is a group of 3, would you join in?</p> <p>Make more use of social media - from what I understand beyond the newsletter there isn't much. You might read it and put it to the side and forget what it was. Especially for young people who are used to consuming media in this way. E.g. Some schools are quite good at this. Advertising an event and then putting photos etc after the event. This will help people to see what they missed and maybe want to come along.</p> <p>What does it mean? More people coming to Mass, Those who come being more present in Mass?</p> <p>Approaching people directly does make a difference. No response to advert asking for</p>

Date	Question Number	Question and feedback
		new confirmation catechists - but directly approaching people helps. When you invite someone you can explain that it is not a massive commitment.
30Nov21	7	<p>Need activities for the youth Roll of women – women not included in decision making of the Church</p> <p>Encouraging people to take part Need to ask people to take part (not wait f volunteers of), people often like being invited. Synod needs to be marketed better. Needs to be explained to parishioners.</p> <p>Questions and explanation needs to be reworded for 9yr olds and represented.</p>
Paper forms	7	<p>A big party in the hall at the end of the pandemic to say in a loud way that the church is open again for public worship. The restoration of the Sacrament of the Blood of Christ when it is safe to do so.</p> <p>By supporting groups from the roots upwards, rather than downwards, to share insights & understandings at the grass roots with other levels. Personal development for deeper spiritual journeying together.</p> <p>Very difficult to answer. I m very disappointed at the very slow return to Sunday Mass since the lockdowns. We still have a long way to go. I continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire people to return as before. We have a great parish!</p> <p>I think that there is enough opportunity within the Parish to get involved. Ultimately, it is down to each one of us to participate, to take up duties or regular commitments.</p> <p>Setup groups or channels of communication to understand the experiences, as parishioners, of particular groups, eg: women, ethic minorities; do they feel included? Or do they feel their background and (“5”???) are reflected in parish life? Is the language of the liturgy inclusive? Actively consider how divorced and remarried Catholics can be included and have a role in parish life and worship and sacraments Recognize and make better use of gifts that women may have, without imposing limitations (5???)</p> <p>Perhaps be less rule-bound? While the parish was being very sensible keeping us safe during covid – thank you- there is a sense that lately we have longer lists of “does” and “don’ts” or not covid related thus can come across as unwelcoming and off-putting if one wants to participate.</p> <p>Try to widen the type of person you call to be on the PPC (I actually have no idea who is on it) although I expect it could be (7 ???) on the parish web site. Who for example has been chosen to be the 2 responsible for the parish who will be</p>

Date	Question Number	Question and feedback
		these ideas forward to the Diocese? (in my sisters Parish they actually askd for volunteers)Who wrote this questionnaire?
	9	How do families and young people effectively participate in the life of your parish? What do you do to support them?
11Nov21	9	Youth Choirs livestreaming youth groups
23Nov21	9	<p>Offertory - include children and young people. Different people each time. Makes you feel you're making a contribution in the Mass.</p> <p>First step in becoming involved in the parish life. Great way to include people in being part of the Mass.</p> <p>Pandemic has been a barrier to this.</p> <p>Some Masses it would be the same people week in week out.</p> <p>Part of evangelisation.</p> <p>Pandemic has offered opportunities - e.g. welcoming and stewarding, reading etc.</p> <p>Memorial service - planners decided it wasn't going to be a Mass. But a service, to welcome non-Catholics and Catholics. Important that it was comfortable for wide range of people to attend. Attendance was very good.</p>
27Nov21	9	<p>We used to have youth groups, but we've struggled to find volunteers to run them.</p> <p>We should visit the groups at other churches to see how they do it. E.g. Christ Church (CofE) have a number of different year groups meeting. What is the focus of the group? Bible study and similar.</p> <p>We have a lot of people coming for confirmation together but they disappear afterwards. We are planning to have compulsory parents courses alongside the confirmation courses.</p> <p>Even if people only come so they can get to the schools, but even then perhaps a seed will be sown.</p> <p>Someone who moved to Emanuel Church - the church buzzing with energy and young people really want to be there. It is difficult to understand why it is like this. Another example is the Marriage course we do. The catholic church one was way behind what other churches do. There is a big difference. It would be great if we could find out what</p>

Date	Question Number	Question and feedback
		<p>they are doing - it probably varies from parish to parish.</p> <p>While we are a large Parish - with a lot of people - we don't necessarily have that spark that other churches may have.</p> <p>People travel from miles away to come to our RCIA programme.</p> <p>We need to talk to other leaders from other churches to see what the underlying architecture is to find out what makes them successful.</p> <p>We should consider what we count as success - we are not here to get the best attendance, but we're here to be true to our faith.</p> <p>There are a lot of people out there we aren't reaching. How do we make people feel like they can participate with us.</p> <p>Conversely, we shouldn't be too harsh on ourselves - we don't know how many people we impact.</p> <p>There are people with no faith who will want to be prayed for and ask for prayers. At Lidl, the checkout person was moaning about their problems - we can be sympathetic. A person at work who lost their faith 5 years ago - talking to them - reassure them that God has not lost their faith in you.</p> <p>What does Young people mean?! For 20s aged people, we don't have that demographic in New Malden - people tend to live elsewhere (Wimbledon, central London etc).</p> <p>There are gaps between FHC and confirmation. What is missing? Do we have something for people at each age group? Tried to get a group of post-confirmation people together, only 4 turned up. Hoped that some people who were adults would turn up to help, but nobody did (those who are not spiritual).</p>

Mission

Please list which questions were used. If you reflected on questions other than those offered on the diocesan website, please provide them here as well.

3		Are we looking in or are we looking out, as a parish community? Can we do both effectively?
6		Where is the Holy Spirit calling you to mission and service today?
7		In what ways do you already intentionally and actively seek to share the Good News of Jesus Christ?
8		How does the life of the parish, in terms of catechesis, adult formation, liturgy etc. aid in the formation of parishioners as missionary disciples?

What were some of the key phrases, thoughts and comments shared? Was there a thread or consensus in what was shared?

Lenten and Advent charities are a concerted, parish effort. Everyone working towards a common goal.

Everyone has different talents. We should make the best of them.

In this society, raising funds is effective. Not the same everywhere.

Volunteering - giving time, not money.

Good that there's a balance between collections of money and people using their talents to support the Church.

The vineyard used to be very strong in New Malden - Encouraged to join the toddler group. You would go and there would be luxury coffee, doughnuts, nice cakes etc. They got you in - you 'd just go along to the toddler group. Children would have story time (always religious) and then you'd be invited to an evening where there would be speakers and so on. It was all done very beautifully and subtly to get you to be involved in the Vineyard. Very clever.

Learn from other Denomination

NMBC (Baptist Church) does Bing-Go, fish and chip night

NMMC (Methodist Church) has a cafe

Would be good to visit groups/churches that are welcoming to the youth to see what we could use.

Requests for help after Mass - if everyone else does it, I don't have to. Personal approach is important. People can be afraid of getting involved, out of their comfort zone.

Mission Feedback

The question numbers in the feedback below are from the "What is Synod" PowerPoint presentation.

Date	Question Number	Question and feedback
	3	Are we looking in or are we looking out, as a parish community? Can we do both effectively?
11Nov21	3	Yes & No Tolworth OLI – had an Armature Dramatic group If you don't have children it is difficult to get into the like of the parish (difficult to get to know people) Youth groups – difficult to engage and continue. Evangelical and Pentecostal groups or churches are very appealing.
23Nov21	3	We agreed that we can do both as a parish community and we do to a certain extent, but we tend to be more inward rather than outwards. E.g. RCIA - we announce it in Mass, but we don't get people who haven't stepped in to the church off the street. Should we do more for outside Christmas and Easter? We have a lot of people going past the church and having a banner would be seen by many passers by e.g. as the Baptist church often do. Collections for the foodbank, Christmas presents, homeless, etc. Is there more we could do to help the local community more directly? How do we make St Joseph's more of a hub. E.g. A monthly rota to feed the homeless.
24Nov21	3	Monday prayer group, need to find a balance between being inward and outward looking. The star can only be a star if the inward and outward forces are perfectly balanced. Kingston Street Pastors, SVP, not strictly parish groups. Lenten and Advent charities are a concerted, parish effort. Everyone working towards a common goal. Everyone has different talents. We should make the best of them. In this society, raising funds is effective. Not the same everywhere. Volunteering - giving time, not money.

Date	Question Number	Question and feedback
		<p>Good that there's a balance between collections of money and people using their talents to support the Church.</p> <p>Getting everybody involved and contributing in their own way.</p> <p>Prayer on the Street - Saturday mornings - offer prayer to anyone passing by. Reach people who wouldn't normally come to Church.</p> <p>We need to be witnesses - praying for others.</p> <p>Seeing one person stand up and make a difference can be inspirational.</p> <p>Only once have we had an evening to welcome new parishioners. Would be good to reinstate.</p>
27Nov21	3	<p>We should be looking out but I feel we're looking in. We should be able to do both.</p> <p>First instinct is to say we're looking in, but when you look at the breadth of what the Parish does, we actually do a lot of things that are looking outwards.</p> <p>A bit of history (Catholic emancipation didn't happen until 1829, Irish immigrants who felt not part of society, not an entirely welcoming environment) and lack of resources (people have busy lives) . The makeup of the parish has changed, but that legacy is still there.</p> <p>We used to have a parade of all the FHC children - everyone would line the streets and clap. Band, banners, etc. There were other ones on certain feast days and we would join with other non-catholic churches to support each other's parades.</p>
30Nov21	3	<p>We do both, but it should be more than supporting charities.</p> <p>Important Votes in Parliament (such as assisted suicide) Are we doing anything for the homeless? Should advertise: KCAH; Street Pastors etc so that it is more widely known.</p>
Paper Forms	3	<p>We should be a parish who do.</p> <p>I do not think I as an individual can answer for a parish community even if this has been my parish church since 1969. Today's world involves me in a wider experience and context for living. "I have come that you may have life, and to the full". So journeying together continues into eternal life.</p> <p>I believe we have some very good "leaders" in our Parish & with a little more effort from <u>all</u> of us, we can develop our faith individually & collectively, for the benefit of all our parish community.</p>

Date	Question Number	Question and feedback
		<p>We are all in need of spiritual renewal in terms of liturgy & there are various prayer & cell groups but I feel help massively to develop these s[j]=kills – but of course we all have a huge amount of work to deepen this. We need to be more ‘open’ to God’s guidance & his word & to help each other to spread our faith.</p> <p>I think we are looking in, as well as looking out (being part of the wider Christian community in (new Malden). I think that we need to do both at the same time as they are both important.</p> <p>I feel we are doing both, and I believe the parish is doing so fairly effectively.</p> <p>It is difficult to say, as it felt like before the pandemic there was a lot going on and we looked out, this was all enabled by the lockdowns.</p> <p>Both – we support people within the parish community – SVP, delivering newsletters (“7” ???), keeping up with contact with the housebound.</p> <p>But we also look out wards: Street pastors; help the homeless (“7” ???),</p>
	5	<p>How is your parish set up for evangelisation? How does your parish reach out to the broader community with the Good News?</p>
23Nov21	5	<p>There is an evangelisation committee - but don’t know the details of it. Also the RCIA. How can we make this Parish be missionary or evangelising? How do we present ourselves to the outside world so people want to come to us. We live in an area with very high Chirstian population. Fishing is as popular as Going to church. 4-5% of the population going to church. So a lot of people out there who know nothing about us or who are Christian and don’t attend church.</p> <p>We have lots of people who look like they are reaching out e.g. the RCIA but they're not - they are waiting for people to approach them.</p> <p>How can we present the Parish to the outside world?</p> <p>The vineyard used to be very strong in New Malden - Encouraged to join the toddler group. You would go and there would be luxury coffee, doughnuts, nice cakes etc. They got you in - you ‘d just go along to the toddler group. Children would have story time (always religious) and then you’d be invited to an evening where there would be speakers and so on. It was all done very beautifully and subtly to get you to be involved in the Vineyard. Very clever.</p>
	6	<p>Where is the Holy Spirit calling you to mission and service today?</p>
27Nov21	6	<p>There is only so much we can do - the shelter is closed - you can do little bits (e.g. joining a soup kitchen, sending Money) - but we can pray a lot.</p> <p>All night adoration? Often there is only one person at the all day (1030 to 2100) adoration.</p> <p>Would love there to be a soup kitchen here - it could be a focus.</p>

Date	Question Number	Question and feedback
		<p>Devastated that the AA group is no longer part of the Parish.</p> <p>We need to have more opportunities to invite the poor in.</p> <p>We have the facilities.</p> <p>The SVP coffee mornings are amazing for this. No need to fill in forms, just drop in. Ideally anyone in the parish who needs help you can direct to the SVP coffee.</p>
	6	<p>Recognised that Fr Uche has pushed that we should all evangelise. Have evangelised to worker who work our homes</p>
	7	<p>In what ways do you already intentionally and actively seek to share the Good News of Jesus Christ?</p>
30Nov21	7	<p>Witness by our actions, which leads to speaking about our faith.</p> <p>Lead people in other forms of prayer that may have greater impact on them personally. When offering to pray for someone often it is well received, have received thanks for the person who was in need.</p> <p>People of no particular religion are spiritual, they pray, they are looking for answers.</p> <p>Life in the Spirit Seminars was very useful and informative.</p>
	8	<p>How does the life of the parish, in terms of catechesis, adult formation, liturgy etc. aid in the formation of parishioners as missionary disciples?</p>
11Nov21	8	<p>Parish Mission was a catalyst or other groups Parish Survey</p> <p>“Follow me” group enabled Bible groups to be set up</p> <p>Life in the spirit Seminars</p> <p>The introduction of modern hymns in the 1970’s is well remembered.</p> <p>Learn from other Denomination NMBC (Baptist Church) does Bing-Go, fish and chip night</p> <p>NMMC (Methodist Church) has a cafe</p> <p>Would be good to visit groups/churches that are welcoming to the youth to see what we could use.</p>
18Nov22	8	<p>Mission does seem to be done as well as evangelical Pentecostal churches</p>

Date	Question Number	Question and feedback
		<p>Engage younger men to be more engaged in leading groups.</p> <p>Involved in Prayer on the streets working with other Xians to present God to all. Evangelizing through works of charity. Foodbank was good before the Pandemic</p> <p>The Church has a good bookshop and hall for holding meetings.</p>
23Nov21	8	<p>It increases our knowledge of the faith. Not sure it does make us missionary disciples particularly - i'm not sure it does. We like to think we're missionary disciples - we have to be sure that we lead our lives according to our principles. We have to live out the Gospel values through our actions. Do we do this through the life of the parish or through the parish activities? Are we doing this by what we do for our children? The Catholic church has for many years and continues to come under significant scrutiny. And so we have to show by the way we live and operate that we should not be ashamed of. We have to stand up and own it, but it is much more than that. Through our good life people have to ask the question why is that person different? And if they want to find out more than they will learn about our faith. Make it a point to talk about God - every time we meet a Muslim person they will mention God. If an opportunity comes, always jump in and mention it. Engaging in the conversation is important. Sharing experiences is important. Is this something you can do in every environment? People may be interested. Presenting your faith and letting other people ask about it without forcing your faith on someone is key (especially if you have a duty of care). Not being afraid to say you are a person of faith. Just have to be yourself. Our faith is Good, we're happy with it.</p>
24Nov21	8	<p>Catechetics for young people - very good. But after they finish, we lose them. Whole parish needs to re-evangelised. Different things to cater to different learning preferences. Involve people in different ways. Evangelisation begins at home.</p> <p>People don't always want to join in in evangelisation groups. Might help to ask people individually. Wrote a personal note to individuals. Only one person responded. But managed to address technological issues and engage them.</p> <p>Persistence and patience are important.</p> <p>Requests for help after Mass - if everyone else does it, I don't have to. Personal approach is important. People can be afraid of getting involved, out of their comfort zone.</p> <p>People have limited time, and often prioritise family and work.</p>
27Nov21	8	<p>If the parents have Catechesis, then they may help them to be more interested in their faith - it is only once you start to question where Jesus is in your life that you gain</p>

Date	Question Number	Question and feedback
		<p>confidence and become a missionary.</p> <p>The Mass is very important. In the last 36 years or so, while there have been things they have run, I've not had any teaching. Parishes have so much on their plate keeping the fabric of the building going, training for children, etc, they don't have many resources available for training for Adults.</p> <p>Eucharistic processions would really help take the Parish out into the community. (At a previous parish) they had 3 parishes and 100s of people processing down Oxford street with the monstrance - singing etc. Maybe get a communion and confirmation children to process down New Malden high street.</p> <p>We are not present at the memorial parade or at the Malden fortnight parade - it would help to get people aware of the parish and make us more approachable.</p> <p>Good Friday procession - we used to do this regularly (although it was difficult to fit in with our Parish obligations).</p>
Paper Forma	8	<p>The Nigerian Masses are so spiritual, let us have more of them. Make St Joseph's a go to place for Nigerians living in London and the South East. Bring the Ordinariate to St Joseph's, so that practicing Anglicans in the area can become Catholics easily. Continue to livestream Masses and perhaps also in the Nigerian language.</p> <p>As a now 80+ year old who has experienced personal journey into the Catholic Church, adult formation in the religious life & continuing personal development & growth, I would suggest it is God & His grace that nurtures all life in a mysterious way. Stages of formation may support missionary discipleship.</p> <p>There are enough group to get involved in, to learn more and deepen our faith. Mission (a few years ago) was a good starting point.</p> <p>Groups and programmes (RCIA, Life in the Spirit, Follow Me) all help to deepen understanding of our faith to equip our mission. Groups such as street pastors and the planned prayer group in the High Street, SVP, & UCM demonstrate faith in action.</p> <p>Not surewe need more initiatives like Bible Study groups, home cellslooking forward to face-to-face gatherings when the pandemic is over.</p> <p>Something I, as a Catholics are not good at. People are shy about evangelizing openly. Not sure how you get round the 'Great British reserve. Maybe more options to join ecumenical groups.</p>

Submitting contributions

Parish delegates will be invited to one of three diocesan gatherings with Archbishop John, the Synod contacts and other parish delegates and clergy. These gatherings will provide a further opportunity for prayerful reflection on what the Holy Spirit might be saying to the Church at this time.

What is shared at these gatherings will form the basis for the diocesan submission. We also, however, would welcome all notes recorded at the listening sessions undertaken in the parish (and elsewhere, such as school and university chaplaincies). These can be photocopied and posted to the address below or emailed to synod@rcaos.org.uk as supportive documentation.

Websites: rcaos.org.uk/synod
aec.rcaos.org.uk/synod

Email: synod@rcaos.org.uk

Address: Synod Submissions, 150 St George's Road, London, SE1 6HX

Resources from the Synod Office in Rome are available in different languages at www.synod.va/en.html

Resources from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales is available at www.cbcew.org.uk/synodal-church/