



For a synodal Church  
communio | participatio | missio

## Synod Report Cathedral Church of SS Peter & Paul March 2022

**Summary of feedback during the Listening Process – copies of this summary and the full report are available on the Cathedral Parish Website**

### **Engagement with Parish**

Parishioners were able to use the interactive display at the back of the cathedral to make comments. Face to face meetings were held on different days and at different times. Zoom meetings were offered in addition. A number of email responses were made to the synodal questions and also addressed the life of the church and to the parish generally. Approximately 70 people attended the group sessions.

### **Some Headlines**

- **The participants love the Catholic Church and their faith.**
- **They want to know more about it. Why does the Church teach what it teaches?**
- **There is a desire for other opportunities to pray such as the Prayer of the Church and Adoration. These are for personal enrichment as well as an opportunity to invite people to experience prayer in the Cathedral.**
- **People know that there will be fewer Masses in the not too distant future and want to actively support the clergy.**
- **They want to share their faith but do not think they are equipped to do so.**
- **They want to know each other better. They seek this partly through participation in liturgies and other Parish events but also through social activities.**
- **The parish is not felt to have a strong active outreach programme.**
- **Many commented on the lack of the parish council.**
- **Concerns were raised about the people who feel excluded/ignored.**
- **Many commented on the good homilies at the Cathedral.**

### **Prayer and Community**

People love their Church and are hungry for more spiritual growth and building a community that has a social dimension. Is coming to Mass sufficient? People want more community and more engagement with each other.

### **Hopes and concerns for the Universal Church**

There is fear that the Synod process will be distorted and then buried. Some do not think they are able to speak out. They hope that this listening exercise is the start of a new phase leading to more engagement between clergy and laity.

There is a difference between authority and governance. Authority derives from God we all have authority as baptised Christians. Authority is not the same as power but it often feels that it is.

Are we welcoming enough to newcomers and those who want to know more about Christianity and Catholicism? The lack of Young People in the parish is a significant concern. People are concerned

for their family, particularly their children, their friends. People think they are ill equipped to go out and spread the gospel.

We should take the church to the margins of society to preach the gospel. Mission is a conversation about the small things as well as the grand projects. Sometimes, it's as if the church is embarrassed to admit that it's about saving souls when people around us believe in universalism. Is Christ just a nice added extra? How do we know the Lord and make him known?

The Church seems to be good at putting up barriers. We are all sinners, loved and redeemed. Why do some sinners never come back to be reconciled with God? Concerns were raised about the people who feel excluded/ignored (divorced, LGBT, single, women and married men who feel called to priesthood). Also the perception that women do not have a voice in the Church where it matters.

Many are concerned about the long term damage of the clerical abuse scandal and its mismanagement.

There is a desire for a relationship between priesthood and laity of mutual respect and cooperation. The laity's gifts and talents are not being recognised and used. Also, it is recognised that for a lot of people there are such demands on their lives that simply coming to Mass is all that they are able to manage.

We want our priests to be pastors and not managers. The laity want to collaborate and contribute.

### **Hopes and Concerns for our Parish**

The Pastoral Council is no longer active. Is there a network of influencers working in the background in the Parish? There is the impression that some seem to be consulted and others are not.

It was acknowledged that there may be good doctrinal reasons as well as practical reasons behind decisions. It would be good to hear about the reasoning. The Synod process of question listen, dialogue, pray, discern is seen as a guiding principle. People want to be able to contribute to the life of the Church and Parish.

Can we do more to share social justice projects with other local Christian churches?

People like the quality and variety of the ways that Mass is offered and the homilies.

### **Next Steps**

The Cathedral team led by Canon Bosco is prayerfully considering the findings and discerning the next steps. It is recognised that the listening was productive and fruitful and this is not seen as a one off exercise.

Reflecting events have been organised to feedback the findings in more detail. These are planned for;

**Apostle Room with refreshments**

***Tuesday 26th 3- 5pm.***

***Saturday 30th April after 9.30 am mass***

***Tuesday 3rd May after 7 pm mass***

**Via Zoom**

***Wednesday 27th April at 7.30pm via Zoom***

You can book on the link below or by calling Ann on 01275 843193. You only need to attend one event. All are welcome regardless of whether you participated in the Synodal process or not.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/clifton-cathedral-synod-reflecting-event-tickets-300585498317>