

How do we organise ourselves as a parish to do this more effectively?

Present the message of the Gospel in a more accessible way.

To parishioners 'It's your parish' – not just the ones who are already volunteering. Share the load.

Reaching out to those that have left the Church, not because of faith but because feeling unvalued. Can we extend a personal invitation?

Some people find it difficult to understand the Bible; how can we help them? Can homilies be used more to help understand?

Reach out more to housebound and sick and also utilise more the live streaming.

To have time during Mass for people to introduce themselves and make a commitment to pray for each other during the week.

Have events with food and celebration where people are encouraged to bring along others who don't go to Mass or are not Christian.

We all have co-responsibility to evangelise not just the clergy; and it would be a very good to get the opinions of those who no longer come to Church or take part.

Music and liturgy need to be more contemporary.

Desire to have more courage to reach out to others especially as we now have a youth worker.

For the Synod Synthesis Report please go to:

<https://rcdow.org.uk/synod/westminster-diocese-bishops-synod-report/>



On 17 & 18 February we held synodal listening groups to reflect on the questions sent from the Synod Office. Here is a summary of responses.

Comments in bold were mentioned by more than one group. ✓ indicates how many times they were mentioned.

People who could not stay were invited to take home the questions to reflect and to return their responses. These will be included in the summary next week.

You are encouraged to come to one of the second listening sessions after 9am and 11am Mass on Sunday 25th February.

With thanks to Angela Baffa, our Synod Rep, who collated these responses.

How do we witness as a Parish and proclaim our faith to:

Those who have never heard of Christ.

By example, being a nice person.

Ash Wednesday service – welcoming all. ✓✓✓

Having a visible sign such as the ashes on Ash Wednesday - opened up conversation with people that they would not normally speak to. ✓✓

Helping people when they really need it.

Courage to discuss things at work, to intervene in gossip.

Know faith to be able to talk about it. ✓✓✓

Look for and encourage the good in others.

Good to have better signs identifying church and welcoming people.

Church and garden; open as space to be still/reflect.

Walk of witness/Blessed Sacrament procession/

Good Friday Procession. ✓✓

Saying *I'll pray for you* when people share things ✓✓

Attentive to those around who are struggling or seeking comfort.

Being a listening ear.

Desire to reach out to other people to share faith, but people feel fearful to do this for a variety of reasons including – other peoples' negative reactions, being seen as “holier than thou”, fanatical or dominating. ✓✓

People might wish they had our faith; how can we help them?

Link between science and religion: young adults find that as they start to understand science they lose the connection with their faith.

Those who have ceased walking with Christ.

Encouraging, inviting to come to church but not nagging.

Patient, being positive.

Talking about faith. Christmas Grace was a good conversation-starter ✓✓

Provision for those for whom English is not mother tongue.

Invite to special occasions – carol service, Ash Wednesday,

Good Friday.

Increase awareness (e.g. readers) of those with hearing loss. Educate about loop.

Ask why stopped coming – have conversation, answer questions. ✓✓

Giving gifts on occasions (eg. Crucifix, rosary when going to university).

Bringing home palms.

Educate about Reconciliation Room for parents embarrassed about children's noise.

Less words, more symbols.

Be aware of language; can become meaningless/repetitive.

Through our schools; instil those values to children of no religion.

Not feeling accepted/welcome because of sexuality.

Youngsters don't feel the need, especially after the Sacraments; by showing how our faith gives us strength and support might encourage them.

The language of the Mass at times might appear very stern such as “God commands us”.

Parishioners that experience difficulties or breakdown in marriages and family life: How can we reach out to these people?

Children having friends from different faiths and many who have no faith; influenced to follow others with no faith.

Those with whom we worship

Encouraging others to commit to ministries/volunteer posts.

Inviting new people – e.g. help with flowers.

Smile breaks the ice.

Faith-sharing groups/Prayer groups.

Noticing people who are alone and welcoming them.

Support new Youth & Children's Worker - she can't do it alone.

Support ecumenical events (not 'them and us').

We have committees but we could have a Parish Council.

Being inclusive – our parish tries very hard to welcome everyone.