Group Session Record Form

After the session take time to record your reflections shared by the group. If the session consisted of smaller groups, invite each ‘group listener’ to gather with you to record their reflections, or encourage them to complete their own feedback.

**Name of Parish or Community** St Helen’s North Watford

**Date of Listening** 10/11/2021

**How many people**

5

**How would the participant(s) present describe themselves – tick all that apply:**

1. [x]  **Committed to Faith, Regular attendance at Mass and participates in community life e.g. Member of pastoral council/ attends prayer group/reader/volunteer**
2. [x]  Committed to Faith, Regular attendance at Mass
3. [x]  Faith & Church have some relevance. E.g. Occasional Attendance at Mass
4. [x]  Culturally Catholic but Church has little relevance
5. [x]  From a different Christian tradition
6. [x]  From a different faith community
7. [x]  Person of no faith

**1. Optional: How did members of the group reflect on the ‘listening’ and ‘Scripture’ sections? (You only need to include elements when people shared things about their own experience of the Church journeying together)**

We used this as a verbal ‘warm up’ session without taking any notes and focusing on where we felt we were in the responses to Jesus. Much of what was said was further developed in the reply to the question on the experience of the panademic on us in our faith community. (same response as with the 3/11/2021 group

**2. What experiences of ‘journeying together’ during the pandemic were shared? What insights did this reveal?**

This specific gathering was used as a pilot group for the group facilitators. It comprised of strongly committed members of the parish.

The major issues centered around community, outreach and spirituality. (again this corresponds with how the 10/11 group responded.)

**3. What experiences of ‘journeying together’ were shared? What brought joy? What caused pain or sadness?**

We spoke of both positive and negative ‘faith’ experiences during the pandemic. Our experiences were more positive than negative.

**The positive experiences** were many. In the personal arena, there was a flourishing of reflection and personal prayer, including scripture; an appreciation of the church being open; daily life becoming more reflective; thanks for the simple daily life.

Liturgically: the zoom St Helen’s mass was very welcome – ‘our mass’ ; some frequented other parishes’ online masses.

Socially and as outreach: the mission of the foodbank was highlighted; being able to volunteer/help and encounter old and new parishioners (for those living on their own a ‘lifeline’; the central role of Fr Peter.

**Difficulties experienced:** The major one seemed to be the lack of connection with the community (followed by the joy of reconnection!) especially if one lived alone. Others were: missing the celebration of daily eucharist and the sacrament of confession; having to achieve a hard won balance between a busy family life in lockdown and the need for personal spiritual space.

**4. Did the group share anything in particular about the Church’s experience of journeying with and including others, particularly those beyond the visible Church community?**

Perhaps the salient experience of outreach was the connection with others, especially through the food bank, and other opportunties to help in and beyond the parish. Other expressions were witnessed in the Zoom mass each Sunday and linking up with other parish masses.

**5. What experiences were shared about the Church’s priorities for mission?**

**6. Were there any particular issues shared that the people felt the Spirit was inviting the Church to pay more attention to?**

**7. Is there anything else you’d like to share?**

The process of attempting just one question was quite an intense one. It brought out many generic features that also addressed other issues c.f. above.

Also the emphasis on our common pandemic experience showed a church stripped back to fundamental elements of spirituality and service.

If you are able please also type up any flip chart notes / post-its. This will greatly help our small team process all of the feedback. However, if you can’t type up the notes, please take high resolution photographs of any walls of post-its / flip charts and ensure that the writing is ‘in focus’.