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** 12/01/22

**How many people**

9

**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 the Lucan text of The Road to Emmaus as a verbal ‘warm up’ session without taking any notes and focusing on where we felt we were in the responses to Jesus. Various responses which were more personal and varied .

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

This had been discussed in a previous session.

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

**CHALLENGES OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ‘CHURCH’**

* The need for modernity – the wider church too archaic
* Reflects a negative image
* Too image conscious
* Need more time to engage in Sunday eucharist instead of being busy with ministry
* Clericalism: homophobic hyprocrisy; clerical abuse
* Church on autopilot; attendance out of habit; maintenance instead of missionary
* Too boring for young people
* Need to appreciate our faith more
* Lacks meaning
* Needs more active participation
* Unexpected loss of pp and difficulties of transition.
* Disconnect between people and church

**JOYS; STRENGTHS; GRACES**

* Positive and friendly local community
* Good mix of age and culture
* The ‘God’ centre of the church in its saints, mystics, prophets; the inspiration of Pope Francis
* Communion of saints and sacraments
* Fellowship engendered through small community groups e.g. prayer groups
* Freedom to practise the faith
* People opt to attend church and make it part of their lives
* A sense of belonging to local parish
* Return to music and activities after panademic
* ‘God is with us’ whatever.

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

* That prayer/worship leads to action; to be more relevant in the world
* Volunteer service to Lourdes outreach
* To be filled with the Spirit; use of Life In the Spirit seminars
* Growth of fellowship/community belonging
* Development of faith through groups, programs
* Women priests: which would lessen clerical sexual abuse issues
* More inclusive
* More connected with environmental concerns
* Mission, not maintenance

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’.