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** 13/01/22

**How many people**

18

**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 Luke 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’**

**LOCAL CHURCH**

* Need to involve young people more
* Need to welcome the less fortunate
* Need of less distracting behaviour at mass; people not wearing masks
* Sunday Christians or cliques = not community
* The need to reach to people grieving
* Church items down-graded e.g. Holy Days of Obligation

**WIDER & INSTITUTIONAL CHURCH**

* Lack of response and involvement; tends to be more reactive
* Lack of leadership; need to engage and not be distracted by minor issues
* Is the church fit for purpose​?
* Disconnect with the ‘world’; does not unite sufficiently against challenges e.g. climate change .
* Too many restrictions
* Image more important than integrity

**JOYS; STRENGTHS; GRACES**

**LOCAL CHURCH**

* Food bank work during pandemic & charity activity/generosity
* Groups with new experiences
* Warm & open parish
* New priest
* Respect between generations & cultures
* People stepped up to responsibilities
* The celebration of the mass

**WIDER AND UNIVERSAL CHURCH**

* Historical and spiritual depth

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

**LOCAL CHURCH**

* Getting to know new people; help with loneliness
* Focus on Eucharist not on the priest
* Small cell community groups
* Home masses
* Better use of the Eucharist to strengthen our faith

**WIDER & INSTITUTIONAL CHURCH**

* A non-judgmental church, while still attached to tradition
* Women given more roles e.g. priesthood (ease the abuse situation)
* More open; e.g. divorced people allowed communion
* Better communication between diocese and local church
* Discussion and amendment of rules on birth control
* A Church that is more relational and inclusive
* Emphasis on Jesus in all things rather than politics of Church

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’.