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** 16/01/2022

**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 the Road to Emmaus text as a verbal ‘warm up’ session without taking any notes and focusing on where we felt we were in the responses to Jesus. Some reflections were: the prefiguration of meeting Jesus in the eucharist; Jesus makes us listen to our own story before he actually invites us to listen to him; Jesus walks with us.

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

This exercise concerned our GENERAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CHURCH (not just during the pandemic).

**DIFFICULTIES WITH CHURCH:**

* Struggle with personal prayer
* Relating to liturgical styles e.g.’happy clappy’; tradional v modern
* Leadership of priest, taking the the parish with him
* gap between diocese and parish; lack of pastoral sensibility; lack of pastoral care for priests
* regulation/rules change without adequate explaination e.g. holy days of obligation
* credibility gap: need for open debate on married priests, women priests, same sex marriage; abuse of power & hypocrisy of Vatican with homophobic attitudes.

**JOY AND GRACE**

* ‘I am church’: graced from sacraments; much goodness in the institution
* Support of charities. Doers of the word.
* Strength of spirituality
* I belong (I am church); A ‘die-hard’ catholic.; tribal ‘blue print’.
* Moral compass
* A sense of home; community spirit; privilege of helping
* ‘God is God’ – Trust

**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?**

C.F. No 3.

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

**HOPE**

* Change at the top; too disconnected with people; need to listen, to ‘get it’
* Driven by pastoral need not by policy (the ‘New Bible’!)
* Solidarity of priest with parishioners
* Listen to people before change e.g. new priest allow 6 months before change
* Home for everyone, not just the ‘goodies’
* Need to be a community niche for young people
* Church as listener to the signs of the time in the world (G et Spes).
* That God is in the world not just a parish pocket. Need to be inclusive
* Need to champion environmental cause.

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’.