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** 24/11/21

**How many people**

8

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

1. **Committed to Faith, Regular attendance at Mass and participates in community life e.g. Member of pastoral council/ attends prayer group/reader/volunteer**
2. Committed to Faith, Regular attendance at Mass
3. Faith & Church have some relevance. E.g. Occasional Attendance at Mass
4. Culturally Catholic but Church has little relevance
5. From a different Christian tradition
6. From a different faith community
7. 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. Various responses which were more personal and varied e.g. sense of faith, mercy, blindness.

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

This had been discussed in a previous session.

As some of the group had already worked this question we broadened the question to ‘what are one or two of the positive experiences and negative experiences of being a Catholic?’ Check response to Q 3.

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

This specific gathering was an evening group which had a limited uptake (cold evening, etc).

The positive experiences centered around church inspired spirituality and relationships in church (community),while the negative experiences centered around the regressive features of current Catholicism, the effects of the pandemic and the lack of faith groups.

Again as in other groups our experiences were more positive than negative.

**The positive experiences:**

Personal spirituality: joy and peace; able to relax in God; charismatic renewal; online links meant that we could join in prayer; a freedom in prayer; courage engendered through doubt; closer to God; Covid sadness brought us closer to each other.

Community: the local church is family/home; openness/friendliness of parish

after mass gatherings; Alpha courses; the leadership of Fr Peter; masses on-line; sense of not being alone in prayer; the effect of Vatican 2 & Pope Francis.

**The negative experiences:**

Current regression of Catholic Church: a sense of stagnation and unwillingness to grow; out of date and closed to the times; abuse of power e.g. clerical sexual abuse and clericalism; unattractive to outsiders.

Effect of pandemic: sadness with loss of loved ones; missed the Eucharistic gathering; distance from own family.

Church community: lack of faith groups; Fr Peter’s leaving deprives us of his missionary zeal.

**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?**

This will be left to future meetings

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

This will be left to future meetings

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

This will be left to future meetings

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

Again a smaller but committed group participation. Joined by the new parish priest.

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’.