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** 03/11/2021

**How many people**

7

**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. 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.

**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.

**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 included: a strong sense of empathy, solidarity and connection (for some a new bonding); involvement through volunteering giving a sense of service and purpose; a reaching out to others, especially through the food bank; the accessibility of the parish priest; a time for reflection and spiritual growth – for one family their own ‘agape meal’ celebration; the virtual connection through the zoom mass; more open to others and what the future might bring; the joy of coming back together as a community.

The negative experiences seemed to be less marked. These included: the restriction of the government lock down on church life; having to forego normal commitments and volunteering; the limitations of the zoom mass; the need of others physically; the imposition of others in a WhatsAp group; the general frustration of Covid; loneliness for those without home support.

**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 seen in the food bank. Other expressions were witnessed in the Zoom mass each Sunday and the different WhatsAp groups, especially the prayer group.

**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’.