

Blessed John Duns Scotus Parish

13th March 2022

Our Views on Synodality from 1st Sunday of Lent survey

We would like to thank you all for participating in our Parish synodality survey that we undertook last weekend. We had **over 140** people participating, which was a very high proportion of those who attended mass at the weekend, when we consider the number of children who attended and the number of couples and families who made only one submission to the survey.

Your engagement was excellent and very encouraging, we received very good insightful and constructive comments that has made a great contribution to our synodality process in the parish.

To do your contributions proper justice, it will take us some time to generate a proper summary of your views, work has started on it and we intend to share the conclusions with you shortly so please watch this space.

There are key results that we can share with you to some of the questions.

In response to

We can be tempted to rely on the old ways of doing things, on people it's easy to deal with. We are being asked to see the church as "companions on a journey" sharing, listening to each other, deciding the way ahead together, with the scriptures as a route map.

Do we see it that way.?

Over 95% of those who participated said yes, with a few saying No.

All views are respected but it is clear- that there is a clear majority who agreed that we are companions on a journey.

Have we left others behind in our journey?

There were mixed views here but **around 60% agreed** that we had left others behind in our journey.

Have any walked away from us as church?

Again, there was mixed views **but around 65%** agreed that there have been people that have walked away from us a church.

Have I had an experience of really being listened to?

Of those who did clearly respond to this question , around 70% did have the experience of really being listened to, while around 30% had not.

Have we identified a way forward for our parish?

Half of those that did respond said that they did not know. For the other half, those who gave a clear decision, there was a 50:50 split between those who agreed and disagreed. In effect a quarter of those who attended had positively affirmed that we had identified a way forward as a parish.

Summary

We are delighted by the level of engagement and participation that the parish survey received from those who attended mass last week – it was encouraging to see this commitment.

There is a strong recognition that we are **“companions on a journey”** and a majority view that we have **“left others behind in our journey as companions”** and there was people who had **“walked away from us a church”**

There is food for thought here.

On a positive note there was a strong response to the question that people had felt that they have had **“an experience of really being listened to”**, but not everyone expressed that view. We hope that this synodality process will help address that.

Finally, it is also clear that only a quarter of those who responded to the survey felt that we have **“identified a way forward for our parish”** So it is also clear that we have work to do , so that we are transparent about this and seek to address the individual and collective views and concerns of our parishioners and respond to the findings of this survey.

Next steps

- We will continue our synodality process during lent, we encourage you to continue your participation. Please find time to attend our synodality meetings after the stations of the cross at 6.30pm on Friday nights during lent. (Approximately 7.15pm). Please find time to attend. That would be great if you could.
- We commit to provide you a full report on the findings of this Parish survey. Further detail on the comments made on the questions highlighted here as well as a summary to the comments and responses to the five open questions that we invited responses to.
- An opportunity for you to comment and respond to the findings of our Parish survey.

Finally, thanks again for participating in our Parish synodality process and we encourage you to support this during our Lenten period and beyond.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE ANY COMMENTS PAPER IS AVAILABLE FOR
YOUR VIEWS**