



St Mary's
Parish
Haddington
Road

*Serving the
family*

*Serving the
community*

*Serving the
city*

28– 29 May 2022

Synodal Gatherings Report

There are two strategic pastoral initiatives currently under way in the Dublin Arch-diocese taking place at parish level. These are the **Building Hope Pastoral Renewal Programme** which is due to commence in our parish before the end of June and the **Synodal Pathway Gatherings** which are now completed. This weekend we are publishing a summary of the information gained from our recent Synodal Gatherings. We want to share with you the factors which are seen to give Joy, Hope, Sorrow and Anxiety as we consider our life in the Church and what we need for the future.

The Synodal Pathway initiative is a world-wide initiative requested by Pope Francis and all parishes have been invited to participate in this (more information on this available at <https://dublindiocese.ie/category/synod>). The report on the Synodal Gatherings for St. Mary's Haddington Road was submitted to the diocese on the 4th May. Copies of the report can be requested by sending an email to ParishOffice@StmarysHaddingtonRoad.ie. As can be seen from the following summary, many of the factors seen as important by those who attended the Gatherings are complex in nature as they can be both sources of joy and hope or sorrow and anxiety. For example as you read through the following text you will see "Community - sense of caring, belonging, inclusion" listed as a factor of Joy, Hope and Sorrow. To gain a deeper understanding of this we would encourage people to request the full report.

Key factors which engender **joy**:

- Community - sense of caring, belonging, inclusion;
- Jesus and the Resurrection and fruits of our faith;
- Eucharist, Sacraments and Liturgy;
- How the Gospel is read and the homily;
- Community, prayer and grace (spiritual strength).

The core areas of the Catholic tradition, when embraced out of love, were cherished and respected by those in attendance and were seen to help deepen our relationship with God and create a sense of community and belonging. Religious practice should not be confused with living in accordance with the values of Jesus. It is more important to live in accordance with the values of Jesus, supported by religious tradition than by assessing a person's faith and the values they live by through formal religious practice.

Key factors providing **hope**:

- Mass attendance, religious practise, streaming and broadcast;
- Young people and families in attendance at church services;
- Community - sense of caring, belonging, inclusion;
- Inspiration and leadership of Pope Francis;
- Consultation and valuing opinions of parishioners.

Embracing the use of technology to help people engage with participation at Mass gives hope. The respect of Pope Francis' leadership style is much respected. He demonstrates compassion, inclusion and respect for diverse insights is highly valued. Synodality is important. The call of the Christian is to bear witness to the truth. Regrettably the opportunity to contribute from the perspective of one's individual sense of truth to the teaching of the church/ dogmatic positions it holds, has limited the opportunity for the un-ordained faith community. New sustainable pathways for consultation and co-decision making are needed. The Synodal Gatherings are a good start in implementing such a process.

Key factors which engender **sorrow**:

- Community - sense of caring, belonging, inclusion (lack of)
- Church structure, rules and women's role in the church
- Knowledge about our faith and the Church
- Child and sexual abuse - scandals
- Young people and families (attendance)

Given that women are approx. 50% of the community, the structural impediments to fully participating in the church life were noted. *Community - sense of caring, belonging, inclusion* is listed in this section, due to the perceived exclusion of "Gay" and "Divorced" people from the Church. The lack of knowledge about the Church is a concern as is the misperception of the Church's rules and

Contacts: Fr Fachtna McCarthy, Administrator, Fr Patrick Claffey C.C., Fr Josip Levaković C.C., Deacon Greg Pepper: Tel 01-6600075

Streaming and Website www.stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie email: info@stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie

Child Safeguarding and Protection: <http://www.stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie/ministries/child-protection/> also www.csps.dublindiocese.ie

Streaming also at www.churchservices.tv/haddingtonroad

Funded by Living the Joy of the Gospel Campaign

exhortations, e.g. Humane Vitae. The child and sexual abuse scandals remain a very significant concern. Care needs to be taken to ensure that we experience a sense of belonging within our faith community.

Key factors which engender **fear or anxiety**:

- New paradigm of ministry
- Declining numbers of clergy
- Church structure, rules and women's role(s) in the church
- Change and pace of change
- Young people and families (low church attendance)

Looking to the Future

To sustain and develop the Catholic tradition, consideration should be given to evolving new paradigms of ministry. This will probably require clarity regarding the definition of ministry and a process of discernment regarding options for a new paradigm. The limited role of women in the Church is referenced in the **sorrow** section but is also an **anxiety**.

We need to employ best practice data gathering techniques to understand why there has been such a decline in people explicitly embracing the Gospel, to what extent this is a result of mis-communication or dis-proportionate attention to non-essential elements of our faith (e.g. Humanae Vitae (ref. [Ordinary Magisterium](#)) for Generation X).

Systems and processes need to be developed and implemented to ensure that the factors which enable joy and hope, are clearly identified so that these continue to be experienced. The full report as presented to the Archdiocese gives some specific examples.

The Church leadership at all levels needs to consistently express its regret for the scandals which were allowed to occur in the Church. Organisation structures need to respect the dignity of all Catholics and to engage with the non-ordained faith community on a mutually respectful basis in terms of faith knowledge and insight. Otherwise, the fruits of synodality may not be realised nor will a sustained growth of a lived faith be likely.

The role/ opportunities for women in the Church in terms of leadership and influence needs to be assessed, the results published and the commencement of a process of discernment regarding identifying any changes needed.

The data in this report does not help us understand why so many people who claim to be Catholics do not engage in the religious practises of their faith. Market research may be helpful in determining reasons for the rate of decline in religious practice. Given we believe the church has the Truth, we need to understand how to convey the Good News to our fellow human beings of the 21st century so that they will believe and live according to the values of the Gospel.

Meeting in June

As we continue to embrace the principles of synodality in the Building Hope Pastoral Strategy, we hope that you will be able to participate in a special meeting about the strategy which is expected to take place in June.

Ireland meets Croatia Concert

St Mary's Church, Tuesday 31st May at 6:30p.m. —7:30p.m.

A celebration of the relationship between Croatia and Ireland and of our friendship with the Croatian community in our parish on their National Day.

We look forward to welcoming the Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia in Ireland His Excellency Mr. Davor Vidiš and Mrs. Merica Vidiš to St. Mary's Haddington Road for this event.

Parish Meeting for St. Mary's Volunteers

Wednesday June 1st 7:00pm in the Community Hall

Gary Kehoe will give a talk for all volunteers in the various ministries in St. Mary's Church In the Community Hall from 7:00p.m. - 8:30p.m. on June 1st. Gary is from the Diocesan Child Safeguarding and Protection Service. The aim of the talk is to address all parish volunteers as we re-engage in parish activities after Covid. It is essentially a 're-set' which will also deal with safeguarding of vulnerable adults and children.

St. Mary's Parish Events—Summer/ Autumn '22

29 May 3:00p.m.	Dublin Orchestral Players: Afternoon Concert
31 May, 6:30p.m.	Concert: Ireland meets Croatia
01 June 7:30p.m.	Child Safeguarding Meeting: Community Hall
12 June 11a.m.	Trinity Sunday: Mass of Thanksgiving
18 June 7:30p.m.	Croatian National Day Concert: Varazdin's Baroque

Mass Times

Sundays:

Vigil, 6p.m. (Saturday), 9.30a.m., 11a.m., 5p.m.
Croatian Community Mass 6.30p.m.
French-speaking community Mass 2nd and 4th
Sundays of the month at 12.30p.m.

Daily Mass: 10a.m. - **Rosary:** daily after 10a.m. Mass

Baptisms

1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. Request forms available from Parish Office.

Marriages

For the use of St. Mary's Church and Prenuptial enquiries please contact the Parish Office (open Monday — Thursday, 10.30a.m. - 3p.m.).

IN MEMORIAM

+

Saturday	28 May, 6p.m.	Patty Walsh, Anniversary
Sunday	29 May, 9:30a.m.	Luke Duffy
Sunday	29 May, 11a.m.	Charles Kenny, Anniversary