

# Results of the Parish Survey in Preparation for the Synod on Synodality 2021-2023 Our Lady of Mercy April 2022

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## 1. Summary/ Observations

1. 70 people completed the questionnaire and two parish groups held a discussion around the themes that were pertinent to the synod. Most participants considered themselves to be practising Catholic or occasionally practising (95% in total). In this sense the questionnaire failed to engage those who no longer go to Church. This does, however, make the results more interesting as they reflect the thoughts of church-going Catholics.
2. 50% of people go to Mass in person, whereas 37% go to both online and face-to-face Masses. 11% of people now only go to mass online since Covid. This raises interesting discussions as to the role of Mass online. 76% say they go to Mass every week (this could be physically or online)
3. Only 60 % of people said they believe in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.
4. 52% believe Jesus is fully divine while only 32% believe he is fully human. 28% believe he is the son of the father but "God is the main person". Only 20% believe he existed before he was born.
5. Most important things of being Catholic - Community/Family, Sacraments, Faith, Social justice and values
6. Only 34 % feel listened to in Catholic Church at large compared with 79% in the parish.
7. The biggest challenges in church teaching is related to homosexuality/gay marriage. 24 people stated this was an issue for them. This is interesting since only 9% of the respondents identified as gay or bisexual (6 people). Following this, the other largest issues are divorce (13 people), sexual ethics/contraception (15), Role of women/women priests (8 people).
8. Only 68% people think there is a relationship between Catholic teaching and protecting the environment. However, 14 people feel there should be more education and preaching on social and environmental issues and there seems to be strong interest for dedicated groups in the parish.
9. 1 in 4 people do not feel heard by the Church at large.
10. 37.5% consider that Lay people do NOT have easy access to the Hierarchy to make their views known.
11. 50% rarely or never read Scripture.

## **2. Results of the Survey**

### **The Church and God**

#### **Question 1: The three most important things for me about being a Catholic are:**

- Community / Family / Love of Others / Support of Others (37 people)
- The Eucharist and Sacraments (19 people)
- Faith / Faith in Jesus / Trust (17 people)
- Helping Others / Social Justice / Charity / Empathy for the Poor (15 people)
- Values / Behaviour / Leading a Good Life / Purpose (15 people)
- Spirituality / Spiritual Guidance / Connecting & Awareness of God (9 people)
- Saving my Soul / Strive for Sanctity / Something to Aspire to (8 people)
- Following Christ (7 people)
- Confession / God's Forgiveness (7 people)
- Prayer / Relationship with Jesus/Father/Spirit (6 people)
- Devotion to Blessed Virgin Mary / Communion of Saints (8 people)
- Being a Good Person (6 people)
- Hope / Refuge in Difficult times / Strength (5 people)
- Catechism / Education / Moral Compass (5 people)
- To Live a Christian life / Witness / Evangelising (4 people)
- Sharing with My Family / Family History / Children Joining Me at Mass (3 people)
- The Pope / Tradition (5 people)
- The Gospel / The Word of God (3 people)
- Celebration (1 person)
- Universality (to be able to go to church in any country) (1 person)

#### **Question 2: I feel at home in the Catholic Church**

54% of people feel at home in the Catholic Church at large AND at OLM while 37% feel at home at OLM but NOT in the wider Church.

3% of people don't feel at home in their parish and a further 6% don't feel at home either in the parish or the Catholic Church.

#### **Question 3: I feel heard in the Catholic Church at large**

Only 34% of people feel listened to in the Catholic Church at large. The rest neither agree nor disagree (40%) or they explicitly stated they don't feel heard (26%).

#### **Question 4: I feel listened to in my parish**

79% of people feel listened to in OLM. One respondent does not feel listened to. The rest have no opinion.

#### **Question 5: I believe Jesus is God**

94 % of people believe Jesus is God.

#### **Question 6: Who is Jesus to you? How would you best describe him?**

52 % said Jesus is fully divine, followed by 36 % people who describe him as being a best friend. Only 33% believe Jesus is fully human. 29% said Jesus is the Son of the Father but God is more important. 21% believe Jesus existed before he was born and 15% describe him as a rebel. 12% say he is half man and half God. 5 % don't know what to believe about him.

### Question 7: How would you describe the Holy Spirit in your own words?

- Ruach: the female aspect of the Godhead. The miracle worker. Uncontrollable.
- God's spirit with me on earth
- The Second Person of the Holy Trinity who guides our Church until the end of time.
- The veil of God's Presence surrounding and accompanying us.
- Divine intervention, gives the ability to speak sometimes about God to other people, gives you strength
- Omnipresent force for good
- The breath of God within
- The divine energy in nature.
- I believe that the Holy Spirit is the bond that connects you to the Father. Cannot be seen but you can feel.
- The spiritual presence of God
- The 'stream' of Love between The Father and The Son
- A whisper to act
- The Great Consoler
- The presence of God in every moment of life
- The love manifest between the Father and Son
- Love (2 people)
- Wisdom (2 people)
- Helper
- A channel between God and His people after Jesus ascended to heaven.
- It is one God with 3 persons, the Father, the Son (begotten) and Holy Spirit (which is the love between the Father and Son). All of them are equal and eternal, and while being 3 different persons they are one God. This is a Dogma of Faith
- If you, even though you are evil, know how to give good things to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him (Lk 11:9-13). Therefore, the Spirit is the fruit of prayer.
- The third person in the Holy Trinity. He sanctifies us and helps us conform our spirit and our bodily desires to the will of the Father. He is our comforter. He is the love that exists between the Father and the Son. When we allow ourselves to be consumed by this love, nothing else will matter!
- The living force that provides us with consciousness
- the property of love between the the father and the son that is of the same substance of the father and son
- Is part of the Holy Trinity/Third person of the Trinity (6 people)
- Mystical and the most difficult part of the Trinity to understand
- A representative of Faith
- The power and strength of God.
- The love of God acting in us
- God's essence
- According to me ,The Holy Spirit is Jesus

- The guiding force
- God's Spirit sent down from heaven to intervene in our lives
- The power of life and love given by God
- No idea (2 people)
- The way God works through me and protects me.
- It is what makes us alive and allows us to have a connection with God and all those in heaven as well as those here on earth
- Energy, that helps you, guides you
- A way of God to manifest Himself
- A ray of light
- The energy and inspiration that gets me through my daily life
- The father, the son are one. They are my compass in all. My journey in life, my provider, my guide and my everything.
- Manifestation of God's power/love on earth
- The Holy Spirit is the wisdom of God
- comforter, intercessor or presence of God
- A mystery
- The impulse, the blind faith, the calling, the signs.
- He is always there looking after us
- It is The Wellness and The Wisdom that comes straight from God
- Holy Spirit is also God, but you can't see him
- A spirit the came from God to humans
- A comforter, our helper and teacher
- He is the word of God that talks to me directly
- The Holy Spirit is the influence of God over us.

**Question 8: As a Catholic, I have a problem with the Church's teaching on these issues:**

46 people responded to this issue. 3 people explicitly stated they had no problems.

The concerns that were expressed were (in terms of number of people):

- Homosexuality / Gay Marriage / LGBTQ+ 24
- Divorce / Divorcees Not Being Allowed Communion / Remarriage 13
- Contraception / Family Planning 8
- Sex Outside of Marriage / Sexual Ethics 7
- Role of women / Gender / Women Priests 8
- Married Priests / Celibacy of the clergy 6
- Abortion / Abortion when mother's life at risk or rape 5
- Wealth of the Church / Economics of the Church 3
- None 3
- 2 people mentioned one of the following:
  - Other Religions / That the RC Church & Jesus Are The Only Way To Salvation 2
  - Literal belief in the host being the body & blood of Jesus 2
  - Covering up child abuse and not protecting the child / dark issues from the past 2

- Forgiveness / Focus on punishment 2
- Church alignment with new society / Church too conservative 2
- Church leadership's focus on divisive political issues /politics 2

- The following were mentioned by one person: Natural law / Infallibility of the Pope / Practical example of some clergy /Description of heaven, hell & purgatory / Mediation of Church & priest to God / Focus on guilt and pain / Evil / Faith / Revenge / The treatment of sexual deviants / Homosexual and lesbian should not be supported / Abortion, the church should not support it / Long mass service

### The Church and Care for Creation

#### **Question 9: Do you see Environmental and Social Justice issues as being linked to each other and to your beliefs as a Catholic ?**

68 % of people believe environmental and social justice issues are linked to Catholic belief. 13% don't believe there is a link.

#### **Question 10: Regarding environmental issues, my four main concerns are:**

The four main concerns are: global warming (74%), food waste (58%), pollution of the seas (55%) and deforestation (52%). Plastic use also came out high as well (50%)

#### **Question 11: Regarding social justice issues, my four main concerns are:**

Poverty & homelessness (85%), human trafficking (74%), war & selling arms (55%), social exclusion (homophobia, racism, etc) (53%)

#### **Question 12: How should we as the Catholic Church respond to environmental and social issues?**

91% believe that God created our world and we have a collective responsibility to care for it. Interestingly, 6 people believe the Church should stick to religious and spiritual issues and not involve itself in politics

#### **Question 13: How should we respond to environmental and social issues on a parish level? Name two initiatives you think we should take that you would take part in.**

Teaching and preaching more on environmental and social issues (also workshops on these issues and talks on social issues)	14
Do as much as possible to help the struggling and marginalised in the parish/ Strengthen Good Neighbour Fund, food drives etc	6
Encourage programmes to support/ focused groups in parish	6
Recycling / Recycling and plastic consumption in the Fellowship Room	6
Helping the homeless (through donations, pot luck in parish etc)	4
Continue to help those more in need through financial and food/clothes donations (weekly food donations)	4
Pro-life initiatives: Assist people thinking about abortion and euthanasia about the reality of it, the alternatives (e.g., adoption), and the actual effects they leave on the people around them	3
Collect litter/trash pick up in the local community	3
reaching out to local shelters (for animals/ domestic abuse/ soup kitchen) and finding out what they need	3

Food waste	2
Caring for refugees	2
Helping the unemployment in finding a job/job opportunities for unemployed parishioners	2
Protest and organise together, lobby govt officials /advocate long term change with politicians	2
Helping those less fortunate than ourselves / help the needy	2
supervision of contaminated waste / waste classification	2
Outreach to marginalised groups (homeless, refugees, LGBTQ+)	2
Fairtrade group	
A retreat for prayer on a specific social Justice Issue	
Helping children	
Try to reduce the church's carbon footprint/Conserve energy in the building	2
Poverty	
Connect virtually with parishes in developing countries to find out what they need and arrange to send old books, clothes etc. or just interact virtually with shared services	
I think OLM is responding relatively well to these issues	
Manifesting ourselves and leading by example	
Use resources rationally avoiding waste	
I think that a group for LGBTQ+ people of ALL AGES is essential in the church, it's very hard being a queer Catholic and we need a lot more support and a safe space to express that, a mission statement which doesn't even mention this is NOT enough and putting LGBTQ+ people in the same "group" as people with substance abuse or divorced people is ridiculous, as these have nothing in common	
Eradicating poverty from the next gen. through education	
Education for underprivileged	
Include environmental issues in CCD instruction	2
Encourage parishioners to lower their carbon footprint	
Pray hard to stop these things	
tree planting	
Is there a way for OLM to get involved in religious-environmental sustainability programs at the local, national, or even European level?	
Painting and reusing empty space	
A renewed parish council which incorporates younger ideas about social and environmental causes and is more open to change	
Organise: people who offer a job and people who need a job	
Conferences about being catholic and LGBT	

## Involvement of Lay people in the Church

### **Question 14: I feel that as a Lay member of the Church, I could do more**

79% of people either agree or strongly agree with this statement.

### **Question 15: Lay people have easy access to the hierarchy of the church and can make their views easily known**

37% disagree or strongly disagree with the statement, 31% neither agree nor disagree.

### **Question 16: I feel encouraged to volunteer for a ministry in my parish, such as reading at mass, visiting the elderly, serving the poor, being a catechist, etc...**

78% agree or strongly agree with this statement

### **Question 17: In my parish there needs to be an opportunity to....**

To socialise and get to know each other more	4
Interact more with the caritas/ local organisations to volunteer and help those in need	4
Visit the sick/elderly/give out the Eucharist	3
Encourage more people to become more involved	2
To reach out to other faith /ecumenical communities and marginalised groups	2
Meet my pastor / get to know the priest	2
Attract younger people	2
A person to welcome new families and new parishioners	2
Explore different spiritualities within the Church.	
Volunteer as a mentor for children and adults	
Formation in the Catholic Faith. Following the Pope's guideline	
More help with coffee service	
It's not easy given the type of parish we have, but post-pandemic, finding a way to encourage at least occasional interactions outside of Sunday mornings.	
Beyond learning about it at CCD, pray the Rosary as a community, especially with children.	
organise the sale of toys/unwanted gifts, raffles etc. to collect funds for worthy causes	
My parish covers many possibilities for people to help out.	
know what is going on or can be done or would be helpful, even for individual members	
It's an English speaking parish in a Spanish city in the same place as the Spanish parish. I think both will join in one mix parish	
Our parish is the best that I have found in my long life	
Openly critique Catholic dogma without judgement or fear of retribution	
Children to read	
Have better access to the Sacrament of Reconciliation	
If possible, to say the rosary before mass.	
I don't think anything is missing	

## **My Faith**

**Question 18: These are some of the words the Church uses on a regular basis. Do they mean anything to you? Please tick the ones that DO.**

More than 50 % of respondents know the meaning of the following words:

Liturgy

Covenant.

Sacrament.

Catechism.

Consecration.

Transubstantiation.

Less frequently known were the words Oblation, Synodality and Laudato Si.

**Question 19: As regards the Eucharist I believe:**

60.3% of respondents believe that the Bread and Wine become the actual Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. 23.5% consider the Bread and Wine to be merely symbolic. The remaining 16.2% say they are not too sure what they believe.

**Question 20: If someone were to ask me, I can list all seven sacraments of the Catholic Church**

69.1% of respondents replied "Yes" to this question. 23.5% replied that they could not name all seven and 7.4% admitted that they could not name them.

**Question 21: I pray or meditate:**

44.8% of respondents state that they pray a few times throughout the day. 34.3% pray once a day and 16.4% pray weekly. The remaining 0.5% say that they rarely or never pray.

**Question 22: Apart from hearing it at Mass, I read Scripture:**

23.5% of respondents read Scripture daily. 16.2% read it weekly. 10.3% read Scripture monthly. 50% either read Scripture rarely or not at all.

**Question 23: I look for information about the Faith in:**

Several respondents indicated that this should have been a "tick all those that apply" question as they use various sources to look for information about the Faith. Of those that indicated only one source 26.9% mentioned the Internet and 23.9% the priest. The remainder mentioned books, Parish groups or indeed "nowhere".

**Question 24: I feel comfortable talking about my Faith with others:**

67.2% answered "Yes" to this question. 28.4% say they are "somewhat" comfortable talking about their Faith.

**Question 25: What influences me most when I make important decisions are:**

In this question people were asked what influences them most when making important decisions. By far the greatest influence is that of the family (79.4%). This is followed by prayer (58.8%), God (47.1%), professional advice (e.g. medical or legal) (42.8%) and friends (39.7%). The teaching of the Church (20.6%), the priest (14.7%) and Reading Scripture (10.3%) were also mentioned as important in decision making.



## **Mass Practise & Sacraments**

### **Question 26: I think of myself as:**

83.6% of respondents consider themselves practising Catholics. 11.9% consider themselves as “occasionally practising”. Interestingly, one person describes themselves as practising “my way”, another as lapsed and a third as “Practising and a Seeker”.

### **Question 27: I think confession is:**

49.3% consider Confession to be important and 32.8% consider it to be “somewhat” important. 6% consider that Confession is not relevant to them and approximately 10% consider it not important.

### **Question 28: The last time I went to confession was:**

27% of respondents had been to Confession in the last three months.

16% had been in the last year.

21% had been in the last three years

24% last went more than three years ago.

6% say they never go to Confession.

### **Question 29: My experience in my last confession was:**

Respondents were asked to choose two adjectives to describe their experience in their last Confession

32 people (50%) said the experience was helpful and comforting.

21 people (32.8%) said they thought the priest was listening to them.

16 people (25%) felt a burden had been lifted.

14 people (21.9%) felt relieved.

On the negative side 3 people (4.7%) thought the priest was not helpful. A few people described their experience as “mechanical”, “routine”, “unnecessary” or “an obligation”

### **Question 30: I go to Mass:**

76% of respondents go to Mass every weekend. 13.4% go to Mass some weekends and 9% go to Mass some weekdays. A very few said they rarely go to Mass.

### **Question 31: I attend Mass:**

51% of respondents attend Mass in person only. 37% attend both in person and via the internet and 12% attended in person before the COVID outbreak but now attend only via the internet.

### **Question 32: Does your attendance at Mass depend on whether you like the priest or not?**

56% of respondents answered “No” to this question. 25% said that their attendance at Mass depended “somewhat” on whether they liked the priest or not and the remaining 19% answered “No”.

### **Question 33: When at Mass in my parish I feel:**

Parishioners were asked to tick 4 adjectives to describe how they feel when at Mass in OLM. The most commonly chosen were:

Joyful - 45 people (66.2%)

Closer to God - 43 people (63.2%)

Welcomed - 43 people (63.2%)

At peace - 42 people (61.3%)  
Part of a community - 40 people (58.8%)  
Happy to be here - 35 people (51.5%)  
Uplifted - 23 people (33.8%)  
Inspired - 19 people (27.9%)  
Stimulated - 11 people (16.2%)

On the negative side 1 person said they felt bored, 5 said they felt distracted and 2 that it required an effort to be there.

**Question 34: Regarding collections, I feel that the parish asks me to contribute:**

89.4% of respondents consider the parish requests for financial contribution to be about right. The remaining 10.6% are divided between “not enough and happy to contribute more” and “too much and too often” with the former being a slightly larger percentage.

**Question 35: I contribute:**

65.7% of respondents contribute to the Church in cash. 26.5% contribute via standing order. The remaining 7.4% use envelopes, contactless or are simply unable to afford a contribution.

**A little more about myself**

**Question 36: I am:**

62% of respondents are female and 35% are male. A very small percentage identify as either non-binary or prefer not to say.

**Question 37: I live:**

45% of respondents live with family and children. 18% live alone and 16.4% live with a partner. The remaining 20% have various situations including religious community and sharing with friends.

**Question 38: Which country are you from?**

There were 63 responses to this question

Spain 17	USA 15	UK 10	Nigeria 4
Philippines 4	India 4	Ireland 2	Italy 2
Trinidad 1	Ecuador 1	Australia 1	Jamaica 1
Zimbabwe 1			

**Question 39: Your first language:**

39 people speak English as a first language, 15 Spanish, 5 are bilingual English/Spanish, 2 speak Filipino,, 1 is bilingual Filipino/English and there is one person who speaks Malayalam, Igbo and Russian each as a first language

**Question 40: How long have you been in Madrid? (number of people)**

less than 1 year	6
1 year to 24 months	2
2 to 4 years	6
5 to 9 years	7
10 - 19	14
20 - 29	7
30-39	8
40-49	7
50-59	2
Always/most of my life	4
I currently don't live in Spain	1

**Question 41: My age group is:**

45% of respondents are aged between 30 and 50, 25% are between 50 and 65 the remaining 13.4% describe themselves as belonging (in descending order) to the following age groups 20-30, 13-19, 75 or older and 12 or under.

**Question 42: I describe my sexual orientation as:**

85% of respondents describe themselves as heterosexual. The remaining 15% identify as homosexual (3), bisexual (3) or prefer not to say, with slightly more respondents preferring not to say (4).

**Question 43: I am:**

58% of respondents are married.

21% are single

9% are in a relationship.

The remaining 12% describe themselves as divorced, widowed, vowed religious, child, marriage annulled or prefer not to say. Of this 12% the bigger percentage states being widowed. None of the respondents describe themselves as being in a civil partnership.

**Question 44: I have considered (now or in the past) a vocation to the religious life, permanent diaconate or the priesthood.**

71% of respondents answered no and 29% yes

### **3. Results of the Discussion Groups - Young Adult Ministry**

#### **Question 1: How does the Catholic Church bring meaning to your life?**

- Catholic Church confirms what I have in my heart
- Helped to understand spiritual side to my life
- Church explains what I'm feeling and thinking, unveiling the truth beneath the surface
- Makes everything make sense - church is roots and foundations of my life and guides all the new branches that develop
- A home, something familiar, everywhere we go in the world
- Sense of community in the church by being involved
- Most of us are not in our home countries and so this church gives us a sense of community and belonging
- Music in the mass is important to help us in our prayer
- We create art and culture for the world - we express the richness we have inside through art

#### **Question 2: How has belonging to the Catholic Church challenged or disappointed you?**

- Try to separate the church from individual people who might disappoint you - this is a frequent challenge!
- Like to be challenged by high moral standards, but also sometimes feel disappointed by our own and others' failures and the scandals in the Church when it fails to live up to those standards we preach
- Have a lot of responsibility and have to be an example to others. Sometimes it's a lot to live up to
- The Pope leads by example and thus challenges us a lot
- The Church covering up scandal/sin has added more scandal/sin now that it has all come out. Let's try to learn and improve as an institution and a community for the future. We can admit failings, firmly resolve to change, and ask for redemption, as we are all called to do as individuals.
- We know some people who have left the Catholic Church to the Orthodox Church because of the scandals and response to it. We must pray that no more scandals occur in the future and that our response to the scandal can be a witness that counters it.

#### **Question 3: How does the Church need to change to meet the needs of the 21st century?**

- We need to engage with the difficult questions raised in this century (eg gay marriage, divorce, female priesthood, marriage of priests, people who are neither male nor female) in order to explain and understand these issues better. We need to not shy away from the Truth nor avoid discussion, as the Truth has nothing to hide. Through open discussion and explanations we will achieve greater understanding and also greater unity.
- The complementarity of God's Creation, of men and women, needs to be further explained, explored and discussed in order to understand better what God's plans are. Complementarity in what ways, and to what extent? How does this influence roles in the Church? There's a reason behind everything, Truth is not arbitrary and we should not be afraid to dive into it.

- A real challenge in the 21st Century is to explain things better. We don't mean that the core of our faith has to change but that there is a better way to explain the principles we live by, everything has an explanation in reason and human nature: we don't live by arbitrary principles.
- We need to lead by example. Especially now in the world there is so much need for light.
- We should give more focus to the non-Western Church. Most Catholics are outside of the West. How do they live, how do they consider the roles of men and women, what are their concerns? We could learn from them too.
- We need to respond to pressing issues and questions of the century. But we should also not rush to a decision. We should not be afraid to engage deeply and meaningfully
- We start with words, but we must remember to follow through into actions.
- In some countries e.g. the UK there are married priests (e.g. former Anglican pastors now in the Ordinariate; those in the Ukrainian Catholic rite). If some priests can be married, why not all of those who wish? This suggests there is not a contradiction between marriage and priesthood itself. This question also needs to be addressed to ensure we go forward in the best way.

**Question 4: How can the Church do a better job of inviting all Catholics to be actively engaged in the life of their church?**

- This survey is a good start - thank you for asking to hear our voice.
- The role of churches beyond the Sacraments - the spiritual, relational, practical implications of our faith in our lives - people are searching. The Church could step up to meet people in these needs by offering more beyond Sacraments - e.g. social groups, formation, prayer meetings, support for struggling families, Bible studies, ... - Catholic spirituality is very rich and could integrate on a community level into all these areas. If there are no further offerings outside the Sacraments, then there is nothing more for people to go to during the week, and the faith risks being limited to a Sunday-only part of life.
- Many people have been Baptised but have left the Church. God is still active in these people's journey - we need to reach out to them. We need to ask why they have left, and even if their answers are hard for us, we need to address them and engage with them. We can find our salvation by reaching out to others and offering them salvation as well - salvation in a comprehensive sense, not only through Sacraments but through understanding and integrating them into the Church, not only spiritually but also through the integration of faith with the practical living of their lives.
- One parishioner's powerful experience of Confession was like receiving the hug of the father. But Confession can feel traumatic or difficult for some. Maybe we can train priests to add an element of spiritual fatherly affection.

### **3. Results of the Discussion Groups - Prayer Group**

#### **Question 1. How does the Catholic Church bring meaning to your life?**

We had about 5 of us "dyed in the wool Catholics", then one who was a convert, so had not been brought up "in the faith" if you like. Then another whose initial experiences had been in Asia and so different from those of us who were born and brought up in the US, Spain or the UK.

Summary of comments:

- The Catholic Church gives us a purpose in life. Also provides us with a lot in terms of education.
- We find truth in the Catholic Church
- I can't imagine what our family would be without the Catholic Church.
- I came late to the CC - it has been a tremendous force in my life.
- In times of doubt, it's home.
- Without my faith my life would be empty - I could not function.

#### **Question 2. How has belonging to the Catholic Church challenged or disappointed you?**

A couple of people did not flag any challenges or disappointments. One person said that pre Vatican II the church was very closed, but since then it has been more open to the needs of the faithful.

Others said that they had been disappointed by certain priests' response to problems they were facing during their life. But then we are all human and that is not the Catholic Church but members in it.

Belonging to the Catholic Church has challenged me...I want to be a better person.

The Church has disappointed me in its response to the allegations against certain priests. These priests have just been moved from parish to parish and very few have faced any legal process. I feel Catholic Church has become complacent. That is why so many young people have left, seeking solace in other churches or leaving completely.

**Question 3:** The Catholic Church has to be less complacent. It needs to encourage us to witness to our faith (like in other churches). It needs to attract young people back into the fold.

We talked most about 1 and 2.

**4. Synthesis** En una Iglesia sinodal, que anuncia el Evangelio, todos *caminan juntos*: ¿Cómo se realiza hoy este *caminar juntos* en la propia Iglesia particular? ¿Qué pasos nos invita a dar el Espíritu para crecer en nuestro *caminar juntos*?

**English**

25 % of parishioners responded to this process and feel at home in this parish, however that is because of the nature of our parish and the charisma of our Parish Priest.

According to the people, the Spirit is asking for more openness and dialogue with the wider church. 66% do not feel listened to in the church and feel the hierarchy is distant. 40% of the people don't believe that Christ is present in the Eucharist. There is widespread anger at the handling of scandals in the Church and failure to support victims.

The church teaching on homosexuality & gay marriage, divorce, sexual ethics and the role of women/women priests are the areas that many practising Catholics struggle with.

91% believe that we have a collective responsibility to care for the world God created. Global warming, Poverty & homelessness, human trafficking, food waste, war & selling arms, pollution of the seas, social exclusion, deforestation and plastic-use were highlighted as causes for concern.

The lack of transparency in the management, poor teaching, and scandals have caused people to leave the fold. This process of synodality is a step in valuing the people of God.

**Spanish**

El 25% de los feligreses participaron en este proceso y afirman sentirse como en casa en la parroquia. Esto se debe, sin embargo, a la especial naturaleza de nuestra parroquia y al carisma de nuestro párroco.

Según los encuestados, el Espíritu Santo nos pide más apertura y diálogo con la Iglesia en general. Un 66% de los encuestados no se sienten escuchados en la Iglesia y consideran distante a la jerarquía. Un 40% de los encuestados no creen que Jesucristo esté presente en la Eucaristía. Existe un enojo generalizado sobre cómo la Iglesia gestiona los escándalos que se producen en ella y el fallo en apoyar a las víctimas.

La doctrina de la Iglesia sobre la homosexualidad y el matrimonio de personas del mismo sexo, el divorcio, la moral sexual y el papel de las mujeres, y de mujeres sacerdotisas, son las cuestiones con las que la mayoría de los practicantes tienen dificultades.

El 91% cree que tenemos una responsabilidad compartida en el cuidado del mundo que Dios ha creado. El calentamiento global, la pobreza y la falta de hogar, el tráfico de personas, la guerra y la venta de armas, la contaminación de los mares, la exclusión social, la deforestación y el uso del plástico se han identificado como causas de preocupación.

La falta de transparencia en la gestión, la enseñanza deficiente, y los escándalos producidos han hecho que algunos dejen la Iglesia. Este proceso en la Iglesia sinodal se considera como un paso positivo para valorar al pueblo de Dios.