

JANUARY - MARCH 2022



PARISH SYNOD SUMMARY

ST. EDWARD THE CONFESSOR
CATHOLIC CHURCH, ROMFORD



Parish Stewards of the Gospel: Caroline Dixon & Joan Murphy



OUR PARISH SYNOD CONVERSATION

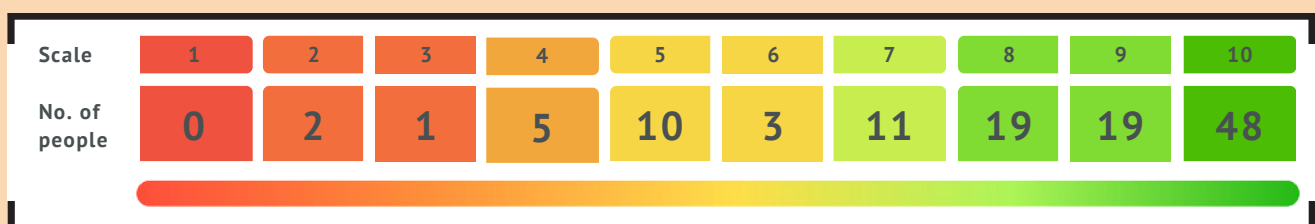
The Parish Synod conversation took place over three consecutive Sundays in January 2022: 9th, 16th, and 23rd. Father Dominic introduced parishioners to the reflective questions during the Homily, and then everyone was given time to write their responses. The responses were then collected during the Offertory and at the end of Mass. The questions also appeared in the parish newsletter and online on the parish website and parishioners were invited to respond and post or email their answers if they preferred.

WEEK ONE: COMMUNION

How well do we journey together as a parish on a scale of 1-10

10= very well

1= not well



Most people feel that St. Edward's is a **strong parish** with a **shared vision**. Parishioners cited the enormous contribution Father Dominic's **strong leadership** is making to the parish.

The parish is very **welcoming** with a good **community feel**.

There is a **family atmosphere** and **good communication**.

*There were some **concerns** regarding the lack of social events and activities in the parish but this is already being addressed and when the new community building is completed there will be greater opportunities to do more.*

WEEK TWO: PARTICIPATION

Note: - In addition to the week two Synod conversation, we produced a letter for parishioners to take to those who were not at Mass, as an outreach to them, to get their thoughts. Five people replied, and very much appreciated the opportunity.

Who is missing from the parish community?

Parishioners felt that **family members, friends, and young adults** are the major groups that are missing, followed by those who are **vulnerable, sick, or people with disabilities**.

Why are they not here?

Many people cited **Covid** as the main reason for absence. It was also felt that many have **lost their faith** for a variety of reasons, including **Church scandals**. Others feel the **Church is not inclusive enough** while some **don't feel welcome** or have other commitments.

What could we do to welcome them back?

Prayer was the biggest answer, along with **more welcoming social events/ activities**. Also suggested was the Church should be **less judgemental and accept differences** and have a more **active involvement** with our **young people**.

WEEK THREE: MISSION

How well do we reach into the wider community in Romford to share the Good News, those on the edges, the poorest and most fragile?

We do this well through our **support for local charities** such as **Women's Refuge, food bank, and S.M.I.L.E.** as well as our church **Live-streaming service, social media, prayer**, and through the **SVP and Golden Club**.

What else could we do or what could we do better?

- Provide **advice, refreshments, and friendship** for those on the edges
- Give to **local and national charities**
- Extend a **welcome by advertising social events, Church visits/activities**
- Be **less judgemental and more inclusive**
- Make contact with and work with **homeless agencies**
- Build a **positive, inclusive community**

What are your dreams for the future of the church, in Romford and in the world?

“ **...for the church to be a moral compass for the world, a refuge for the rejected, bring hope to the poor, and inspiration to the young.** ”
(parishioner)

- That it can be a church for the **LGBTQ+ community**, the **divorced**, and the **less fortunate**
- A church for the **young** - **lively** and **forward-thinking**
- That we should have regular **socials**, **receptions** in the new **community centre** and **days out**
- **More priests, women priests, married priests**
- To **grow** the number of people in the Parish through **example**
- **Charitable activities** that preach the **Gospel**
- To keep the Church **open**
- Support the **poor, homeless, those struggling with mental health**
- To develop **technology to share God's word more widely**

In May/June 2022, we will follow up on the points made in our Synod conversation with an open meeting for parishioners to share and develop ideas.

To view all of the answers from the Synod conversations in January go to the newsletter page on the parish website: www.stedwards-romford.org.uk/newsletter/