

Synod Questions Week 1: Communion

Q1: How well do we journey together as a parish on a scale of 1-10?										
scale	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
number of answers	58	19	19	11	3	8	5	1	2	2
Q1 b: What reasons would you give for your answer?										
score	reasons									
10	feel part of a special family									
10	informative emails; everyone involved and helping; community; family atmosphere									
10	friendly and helpful; Fr Dom lovely									
10	Fr Dom full of love and sharing, an example to us all									
10	Fr Dom brings everyone together as a family									
10	Fr Dom's deep compassion and care filters through to the parishioners; livestream									
10	Fr D is an asset to the parish									
10	FR D involving everyone in the renovation of the church									
10	very welcoming									
10	very welcome at mass; different events in parish very successful; feels like one big family									
10	one family									
10	friendly; Fr D v accommodating									
10	helpful									
10	safe									
10	newsletters online; livestream; phone call from office and parishioners during covid									
10	supportive family church; events bringing us together as one; hopeful									
10	v well organised									
10	newsletters communication online; streaming services									
10	caring; great homilies and services; joyful; charitable spirit									
10	Fr Dom engages and includes everyone									
10	good communication									
10	streaming services;									
10	everyone is included, listened to; everyone is important; transparent; lovely caring inclusive parish									
10	v good communication									
10	bringing people together									
10	included everyone throughout the pandemic									
10	Father Dominic is a great leader. He is really welcoming and relates his homilies to the Reading.									

10	Accepting. You saved my life through receiving Communion again after 2 years.
10	Great experience on first visit last Sunday. Felt fulfilled and spiritual after the Mass.
10	As a parish community we all know how to respond and we know what to do when something goes wrong
10	Being here is being a community
10	a welcoming and cheerful community
10	Fr Dom very supportive online and in person. Very informative. Very welcoming.
10	yes yes yes very good
10	Fr D has done a fantastic job of building our togetherness, updating and doing so many projects. As a consequence parish numbers have increased.
10	Fr D keeps us informed and encourages us to participate in church life.
10	welcoming and family
10	friendly community with lots of activities
10	incredible sense of community
10	well managed and organised
10	church always clean; windows opened; face masks worn; benches always cleaned and wiped
10	We stay as family thanks to Fr Dominic for his kindness to all
10	First time attending- am enjoying Mass and seeing everyone come together to worship
10	10 Fr D is v friendly and you are made to feel welcome. The church is v homely. I always look forward to Sunday Mass.
10	10 Parish works together with the parishioners; always seeking suggestions as to how the parish can save the people. Thank you for leaving the church open and making sure that we are all safe and for always praying for the community
10	
10	the parish adapted well keeping us connected
10	a lovely parish, very welcoming, friendly and warm.
10	always nice and clean; very welcoming to the public
10	
10	lots of activities; opportunities to volunteer; need more people involved; should have a welcome to St. Edwards committee for newcomers; wonderful groups to join
10	keeps us together; we have the same vision
10	parish works well together; fast moving vision
10	welcoming
10	Fr Dom v helpful; Fr D makes people feel included and everyone matters; clear vision, leadership and optimism from FR D
10	Parish emails and streaming; information sharing; encouraging one another; organising ideas and activities eg the hearts and welcome back Sunday
10	We work together on giving to charity
10	People have many talents and pull together. Parish priest makes a difference. Good leadership. Thank God!
10	we journey together in faith
10	Being an active church member getting

	to know many parishioners
9	Fr Dom warm and welcoming and caters Mass for everone
9	Welcoming and friendly
9	Welcoming with strong sense of community
9	Fr Dom wonderful example . Church is a home to me
9	Fr Dom bringing people together
9	Non judgemental and good communication
9	Close friendly parish with good links to school
9	Seeing church as a family
9	Good community spirit
9	Fr Dom great with parishioners of all ages
9	Feel needs as part of the parish family
9	Welcoming and sense of community 12
9	Very welcoming, inclusive, wonderful church. We are like one big family.
9	A great parish, very inclusive and active; a great promoter of the faith.
9	The parish helps me to know how to love God
9	Confession on a regular basis; using incense on Sunday; it's also good to get to know each other
9	everyone works together
9	Fr Dom helps to involve us in all activities. He is always there when we need him.
9	very happy
8	Fr Dom good and children's liturgy praised
8	Did well during restrictions
8	Good community – liked September welcoming day and good communication via newsletter
8	Loves the parish – feels safe and supportive – works together well on charitable events
8	Fr Dom's leadership – friendliness to new parishioners – feeling of support and parish communication
8	Newish parishioner who senses a strong community and hoping when parish opens up fully more will be done
8	Welcoming community – from school and church. Fr Dom very inclusive and engaging especially to young people. Children's liturgy very accessible.
8	Priest connects with everyone and church very welcoming
8	Lots of opportunities to join different activities to do with running of parish. Hopefully new parishioners will feel more integrated after covid restrictions.
8	Clear and open communication
8	Response to foodbank and other charities good. Warm welcoming from stewards
8	Lots of parish activities
8	Good for the parish to be together again after covid restrictions
8	Church brings us together but respects our individuality
8	Very welcoming
8	Parishioners still feeling they have to isolate
8	Fr Dom dynamic parish leader. Hopefully with new buildings the parish will bring back the previous vibrant spiritual and social life

8	everyone is encouraged to communicate and participate. Everyone prays for each other.
8	Family feeling present! Livestream so we didn't miss out each week. Things improving all the time- new priest.
7	same people always doing everything- needs to be opened up
7	parish helps those in need; same people do everything ;church full only for FHC services/ confirmation services etc
7	shared vision; good communication
7	Fr Dom's homily; the choir
7	The parish helped me to learn how to be more welcoming
7	there is a strong core to the community. Events are always well attended
7	Busy and friendly parish. Welcome Back Sunday was lovely. It's hard for people who don't have children (so aren't involved with school or youth groups) or aren't part of the clubs for older people to find their niche though.
7	Parish groups help us to interact but most do not cater for working people.
7	There aren't groups like Legion of Mary and Our Lady of perpetual Help etc. bringing us together.
7	I like this church
7	Still gathering as one as a parish to praise God despite the pandemic but the pandemic has affected parish life
6	don't feel part of the parish but Fr Dom brings everyone together and shares information
6	Social events restricted due to Covid. Pre-Covid coffee mornings had ended. The license was not renewed in the bar.
6	Children often have activities for Holy Communion. There is a Choir. We all pray together.
5	the parish looks after me
5	don't yet feel part of the parish family
5	because it feels a bit isolated
5	I don't know many people and have been coming for 2+ years but I feel safe
5	pandemic
5	Parish community is not very strong. Get-togethers such as the parish bazaar should be more inclusive.
5	Need more community events after Sunday mass. Encourage tea/ coffee so that people get to know one another.
5	I think half of the people in the parish share different views
4	Miss the social club
4	Would be good if more people [other than the usual people] got involved
4	The parish has become less connected
4	I don't feel a sense of community
4	Don't feel part of the parish
3	The parish does not feel like a community. I rarely talk to people I do not know and almost no-one outside of church.
2	Just visiting the parish
2	I only know a few people
1	we are not a whole parish, just groups

1	don't know many people; more social activities after masses
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Synod questions week 1 Communion: summary

Positives/ Negatives

Q1 Summary: How well do we journey together as a parish?

positive responses	number of responses	negative responses	number of responses
Parish building project	3	Don't know many people	5
Welcoming	21	Don't feel part of the parish	3
Family atmosphere	14	Same people doing everything- needs to be opened up	3
Helpful	1	Parish community not very strong	3
Inclusive	7	Need more community events after Sunday mass	3
Father Dominic's leadership	34	Feel a bit isolated	1
Community feel	25	Church full only for FHC services and Confirmation services	1
Good communication	16	No Legion of Mary/ no Our Lady of Perpetual Help groups	1
Friendly	8	Pandemic has affected parish life	1
Safe	6	Should be more inclusive	1
Livestream	7	Should have a Welcome to St Edward's Committee for newcomers	1
Opportunities to be involved in different groups	5	Having forms at the back of the church at the start and end of Mass has caused a bottleneck.	1
Helpful	3	Parish groups don't cater for working people	1
Feel informed	3	Social events restricted due to Covid	1
Prayerful	3	We are not a whole parish, just groups	1
Feeling of unity/working together	2	Bar license not renewed	1

Good links with parish school	2	Parish has become less connected	2
Faith building	2	Need more people involved	1
Feel involved	1	Hard for older people without children to find their niche- don't feel as involved	1
Encouraging	1	Pre covid coffee mornings have ended	1
Promoter of the faith	1	Half the people share different views	1
Engages with young people	1	Miss the Social Club	1
		Encourage tea/coffee after mass so that people get to know one another	1
Charitable spirit- foodbank etc	6		
wonderful	5		
caring	4		
Lots of activities	4		
Successful parish events	4		
homilies	3		
transparent	2		
encouraging	3		
clean	2		
active	2		
happy	2		
supportive	2		
Children's liturgy	2		
choir	2		
Everyone involved	1		
Phone calls to vulnerable during covid	1		
hopeful	1		
V well organised	1		
Great services	1		
joyful	1		
accepting	1		
fulfilling	1		
spiritual	1		
Well managed and organised	1		
Non- judgemental	1		
stewards	1		

Synod Questions week 2 – Participation

Who is missing from the parish community?

Family	38
Friends	23
Young adults/teenagers	19
Disability	6
No longer believers	4
Sick /in hospital	3
Parents of st peter's school	3
Neighbours	3
Live alone	2
Divorced	2
Old/vulnerable	2
Work colleagues	1
Immigrants newly arrived	1
Drug users	1
Poor	1
Homeless	1
LGBTQ	1
Sp needs	1
marginalised	1

Why are they not here?

Covid	17
No relevance in 21 st century	14
Drifted from the faith/ lost faith	11
Loss of faith due to church scandals	8
No time/ busy	8
Bad experience at school/with church leaders	6
Church not inclusive/anti LGBTQ	5
Personal reasons	5
Don't feel welcome	4
Work commitments	4
Laziness	4
Lack of knowledge about Catholicism/ God	4
Once their children get into catholic schools they stop	3
Church is boring	3
Lack of confidence	3
Their children fidgeting/ crying	3
Too poor to come	3

Teenagers	2
Prefer online mass	2
Have other Sunday activities	2
Feel judged/ not accepted	2
Others around them don't go/not catholic partner	2
Gone to a new church	2
Believes prayer is enough	2
Church does not take a stand on moral issues	2
Peer pressure; lack of respect	1
Can't get there unaided	1
Disillusioned with God/ church	1
Don't believe in community prayer	1
Lack of active encouragement with youth in parish	1
Could not relate to Father Tom	1
Not allowed by others	1
Church not always there for them when needed	1
People have become more insular	1
Don't share the faith	1
Difficult to keep Sunday observance	1
Need help to come	1
Church's double standards	1
apathy	1
Out of the habit of going to mass	1
Lack of faith in the world	1
Not interested	1
Never wanted to become a catholic	1

What could we do to encourage them? To welcome them back?

Pray for them	14
More welcoming parish gatherings/ social events	14
Be less judgemental and accept difference	8
Invite people back (individuals)	5
Active encouragement with youth of our parish	5
Minister to them	4
Be a centre of love and peace, not rules and judgements	2
Be more vocal on political injustice	2
Share the benefits we get from coming to Mass/ talk with them	2
More Charitable activities to help people eg soup kitchens	2
Be welcome even if you don't speak English	1
Have inspiring young people to guide our youth	1
Hold family type services (not necessarily Mass) which children 'bring' their parents to	1
Children's weekly catechism club	1

Have a youth mass every once in a while	1
Priest could visit families of concerned parents	1
Make welcome back cards to give out	1
Be there for them	1
Modernise the Church	1
Be more relevant to the world we live in	1
Change rules on gay marriage, female priests etc	1
Through more involvement with our secondary schools	1
Accept noisy, fidgety children at mass	1
More children's groups	1
Don't overwhelm or pressurise them	1
Send pastoral steward from our church to them	1
Through their children's Baptism- remind them of promises made	1
Be more open, engage and encourage them	1
Pray at home with them	1
Volunteers to teach at different levels	1
More church groups for people to participate in like Legion of Mary	1
Be more visible within the town	1
Offer later/night mass times for those who work	1
Friends/family should welcome and invite them	1
Support them	1
Publicise the church, advertisements, newsletter	1

Synod Questions Week 3: Mission

How well do we reach in to the wider community in Romford to share the good news?

Who would miss us if we weren't here any more?

Through our support for the women's refuge, the food bank and other charities in Romford we support	33
Through social media and our streaming services	17
Through prayer	9
Through the SVP	7
Through links with other churches in Romford	5
Not well	3
Quite well	3
Through word of mouth	2
Hospital patients in Queens	1

How do we reach those on the edges? The poorest and most fragile in Romford? What else could we do or what could we do better?

Through the foodbank	10
Through the weekly offering	2
Through our parish groups	2

Through social media	2
Through our charity work	1
What else could we do, or what could we do better?	
Run our own soup or food van/ Soup kitchen/meal days- the poor can feel part of a community here- feel important/ find help for them	10
Have open days/ welcome events inviting people in for refreshments; Use the new community centre for advice/ welcome sessions; Coffee and chat morning for the homeless	10
Donate more/ Giving to local and national charities	8
Create a dialogue/ listen to views of others without judging/ show respect	6
Leafletting to invite people to mass or to say a prayer	6
Identify them, visit and talk to them	4
Advertise our church and community events eg summer fete	3
invite people to attend mass/ social events	3
Through social activities	3
Make contact with homeless agencies	3
A smile goes a long way	2
Encourage them to join parish activities	2
Provide support for domestic abuse	1
Do more to allow people to use our facilities	1
Promote all the parish organisations and ask people to join 1 or 2	1
Use a kind word or greeting to cover the shyness of some	1
Show encouragement and have the doors open for all	1
Live like Jesus did	1
By sharing what we have	1
Continue our fund -raising events halted by Covid	1
Organise pastoral stewardship	1
To always act kindly and politely to all we meet, however difficult	1
Encourage compassion	1
Become more involved in refugee groups; give refugee gifts	1
On the edge, poorest and fragile are most of those at mass, not just Romford. Build an inclusive positive community as support	1
Lenten Lunches throughout different times of the year for needy families	1
Offer space for fellowship such as AA, GA	1
Ask parishioners to give what they don't need to the poor	1
Supporting people to grow veg- community gardens	1
Cooking classes	1
Parenting groups/ parent support group	1
Share the word of the lord outside church	1
Carry out an evangelical approach to the community	1
Go out to the market place in music and prayer	1
Reach out to them personally when in the town centre- offer them tea etc	1
By forming strong youth organisations	1
Inviting people to join Legion of Mary and then visiting those on the edges	1
Priest visiting them	1

More collections for the homeless	1
Organise community outreach programs	1
Be more proactive	1
Visit the needy	1
Offer events for the whole Romford area quizzes , toy library, clothes swaps	1
Make sure there's always someone on the end of the phone	1
Visit care homes	1
Join in multi -faith activities	1
Take food to rough sleepers on Sundays	1
By volunteering to help	1

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.” (a parishioner)

That it can be a church for the LGBTQ community/the divorced/less fortunate	15
That it will be a Church for the young- lively and forward thinking	14
Regular socials/ receptions in the new community centre/trips out	6
Larger church	6
Share the word of God with others	4
Seeing a full church with new faces after the building work	3
More priests	3
That God's word should reach far and deep into the hearts of everyone	2
Our church will grow in number	2
That we will be unified by God's love	2
To keep growing and attract others through our good behaviour	2
To bring more people together to spread love and faith	2
Help all to be good Christians	2
Matching charitable activities to the proclamation of the gospel	2
Bigger parish	2
Keep church 'family feel'	2
Help and support wider community	2
Women priests/ Married men	2
Free from covid	2
A repose for the indigent	1
That our community reaches more people	1
That Christianity lives in the world forever	1
A shining light that everyone wants to come to	1
That the whole community will be drawn to the church by our example	1
More tolerant and understanding of the hardships of many	1
To eradicate hunger- let our church feed people	1
Keep the church open	1
For people to come back who have lost faith	1
To continue loving it and to bring some friends too	1
Regular yearly pilgrimages	1

For this church to be the heart of the community	1
Of the benefits our church development will bring	1
Develop our community through social events, a drama group	1
The relapsed return	1
for the Church to be a moral compass to the world, a refuge for the rejected, that it will bring hope to the poor and inspiration to the young.”	1
Haven for mental health problems rough sleepers	1
Community centre/ club to reopen	1
Clearer discipleship pathway	1
Have influence on social issues locally and nationally	1
Greater understanding of other faiths	1
Support overseas charities	1
Small bar for families to gather	1
Different communities in the church	1
Not rigid but accept other traditions	1
Win souls for god	1
Remain place of worship and prayer	1
Share more testimonies to create hope for all people	1
Prayers for church to grow	1
More parishioners to do God’s will and be more attentive to nudges of holy spirit	1
Support young children and families who have missed so much	1
Continue to Spread joy and sense of community	1
All become saints	1
Unity and peace	1
Give more responsibility to parishioners	1
Would like to know more people	1
Build a better community	1
Longevity of the church	1
Building project successful	1
Use our god given talents to do good	1
Loving and thriving community	1
Faith development	1
More involvement	1
Sing in different languages	1
Enhance sense of community through youth groups	1
Continue to grow	1
religious activities outside mass times	1
To grow in faith	1
Support the poor in Romford	1
Spread the good news	1
Greater involvement of young families from St. Peter’s	1
Share the word of God	1
Bishops and priests embrace and drive change	1
Develop the partnership of parishes	1
A listening church	1

That the church will become more popular	1
For our church to stay open	1
More people to be involved; a bigger choir	1
Reaching out to all and answering their questions on life matters	1
To have a strengthened community	1
To grow in faith and community	1
Encourage others to go to mass	1
Photos of those leading church groups so can be contacted	1
To develop technology to share God's word more widely	1
For all to come together in prayer and good deeds	1
For our church to still be here for our children to practise the faith	1
That our parish flourishes	1
A catholic women's association in Havering	1
That it continues to be relevant	1
A community that supports and helps each other	1
To go door to door inviting people to church one Sunday	1
To love one another and live in peace, not minding our differences and serving the living God	1