**WELLINGTON SYNOD FEEDBACK FROM SATURDAY 29th January 2022**

**WHAT ARE THE DIFFICULTIES AND OBSTACLES TO PARISH LIFE THAT YOU HAVE ENCOUNTERED?**

* Communication and commitment
* Difficulty in finding a time for Mass and events that suits everyone
* Encouraging participation
* Standard of authorised persons leading the parish
* Large geographical area of parish
* Parish has grown by 3x in last ten years or so
* Personal hurts and attacks by clergy
* Not being able to drive/anymore/transport
* Been through difficult times concerned parish will not survive
* Hardly any young families or young people
* No pathway to speak about problems without damaging individuals
* Not being able to gather regularly together
* Large geographical area is a barrier to community not able to get to know each other
* No authority or governance – diocesan level input
* Not having time together or a place to meet together after Mass
* No longer have young families here, demographic has changed and with all the new houses we should be able to have more but if we did they wouldn’t fit in the small church here. Without the younger dimension in the parish, the whole feeling of parish family is lost and sense of community with it.

**HOW IS GOD SPEAKING TO US..INCLUSION OF THOSE ON PERIPHERIES AND WHAT SPACE IS THERE TO LISTEN TO THOSE VOICES?**

* A need to listen to the voices of the ill, disabled and elderly, practical realities of transport, also covid has created a dilemma in that those who have remained housebound or no longer feel they can come to Mass are able to participate via internet liveMass but though this suits them on one level, it does mean they are feeling isolated.
* Percentage of parish that is in old people’s homes, ill or disabled

**SHARING AND DISCERNING**

* Our parish does not use methods of listening and speaking to make decisions therefore they do not allow for listening or including people.
* Fragmentation due to covid, online parishioners who don’t welcome approaches and have even been hostile. Have turned to the internet and online Mass to find their own faith

**SHARING YOUR DREAM**

* One dream was to teach and lead the beatitudes of loving others
* One thing we need to stop doing is going home after Sunday Mass we need to engage with each other
* Engagement, Faith and participation, civil and social responsibilities of outward demonstration of faith.
* Break the covid barriers that have been created
* Find new ways of participating socially, retreats etc..more engagement for all Catholics

**WHAT ARE WE DOING THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE DIFFERENTLY..**

* Gather for retreats with others and their children
* Come into each other’s homes regularly
* We were, some years ago, with a priest who engaged intensely over a three week period with the parish, and parishioners were voted in to committees etc and it worked well, there was organisation, engagement and communication, this has been lost and we have become dispersed, need to return to structure and orderly running of the parish that essentially remains coherent regardless of what priest is here whilst at the same time avoiding the same usual controlling characters from dominating things.
* Constant negative changes create insecurity and instability and people just leave..changes in priests and worry of closure
* Core of parishioners marginalised

**WHO ARE THE PEOPLE WHO FEEL LEFT OUT? HOW CAN WE LISTEN..TWO IDEAS..**

* Full audit of the parish
* Points of contact people who are willing to help call people and check on their health etc
* SVP
* New parishioners from the closed Wiveliscombe parish feel disconnected and hurt, no current plan or opportunity to help them feel welcome or integrated
* Hard of hearing, unable to hear and therefore participate fully in the liturgy and feel alienated, especially when some have very soft voices… is there a loop system or other solution?
* A parishioner, present, had bad experience and ministries removed from her, personal and painful experiences made her, for a time, move parish…could have left the church potentially and how many have? Has had to return to Wellington church due to transport issues but not happy
* Problems with core individuals
* Essentially a real sense that the whole community feels there is no sense of belonging or community

**WHAT DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT INSPIRE US TO DO IN OUR CHURCH…?**

* Develop our faith
* Help others to deepen their faith and engage with one another
* Ecumenical engagement
* Recreate the structures that allow for the parish to be active, and communicating well within itself and beyond

**DO WE KNOW WHO THE PEOPLE ARE WHO FEEL MARGINALISED..?**

* Yes, people in old people in old peoples’ homes and the Malayan community
* Wiveliscombe parishioners

**WHO ARE THE PEOPLE WHO FEEL LEFT OUT**

* Immobile at home… need collecting
* Mothers with infants, often feel self-conscious and uneasy due to noise and need to take their child out from time to time, would be easier if they had a narthex with speakers. Small church makes being discreet with children impossible and intimidating being faced with lots of elderly or older people especially if they complain about distraction or noise etc
* Need to attract families create activities and equally for the elderly that come to Mass then just go home, need groups or activities

**WHAT DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT INSPIRE US TO DO…?**

* Have a building that is adequate for the growing parish (30,000+)
* To settle down with our new priest for a local answer
* To make time for and to listen to each other
* Create facilitate community building events

**HOW BEST CAN OUR PARISH RESPOND?...**

* Use deacons and encourage new priests allow priests to marry

**HOW DO I HEAR AND RESPOND TO THE VOICE OF GOD’S HOLY SPIRIT IN MY LIFE…?**

* A fresh blank sheet exists in Wellington
* Move the boundary of the parish so it is part of Tiverton
* Our being on the edge of Plymouth diocese and yet so far from Bristol, at one time Taunton was meant to be the centre of our diocese.
* Discipleship, reading, caring
* Life of the parish, participation
* Some parishes are alive and some only surviving
* To stand up for Catholic values in society at large, CAFOD and SPUC