

Weekly Message from Fr William for Fourth Sunday of Easter 2022

Dear People of St Mary's, On Wednesday 18th May (note revised date) at 7.00pm in St Mary's the parish will hold a second consultation exercise, springing from Synod 2021-2023, this time specific to the diocese. This will be an opportunity, along with the other parishes, to help identify the pastoral priorities specific to our diocese. This diocesan phase of the Synod is being called 'Parish to Mission' for our diocese. See bulletin for more information, including the questions that will be asked. All are very welcome and warmly encouraged to come and participate in this exercise, whether you're in church every Sunday or haven't been for 100 years.

Meantime the Parish Pastoral Council reconvenes tomorrow, Monday, and we'll be taking a second look and 'listen' to the responses you gave in your contribution to the Synod-parish meeting we held in December.

At that December meeting 13 parishioners said that our divorced fellow parishioners are marginalised by the Church; 8 said that our LGBTQ fellow parishioners are marginalised.

When asked how everybody could be encouraged to communicate appropriately what is important to them, 14 parishioners said that different means or modes of communication could be offered, such as discussion or an anonymous survey.

When asked how we might be better able to participate in the Mass, 18 said 'preparing myself before'. 12 said 'prioritising time'. 11 said 'praying quietly afterwards'.

It seems clear to me that these and other responses from this parish need to be 'listened to' not only by the Synod of Bishops that meets in Rome in 2023, but also by ourselves as the parish community itself, and support be discussed and provided to meet these aspirations. This is what I will be consulting the Parish Pastoral Council on tomorrow evening in continuity with the last PPC meeting in February.

For the full manuscript + full transcript of your December responses see the corresponding links on the website homepage. For tomorrow's PPC agenda, and also for the questions coming up on Wednesday's Synod meeting, see this Sunday's bulletin.

Thank you at Mass last Sunday for injecting extra Eastertide joy and conviction to our proclamation of the creed, our profession of faith. It was a great response. Shall we do it again?

May you and your family continue to be filled with Easter joy.



Fourth Sunday of Easter, Sunday 8 may 2022