**OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA, LOWESTOFT**

**THEMATIC ANALYSIS OF THE 10 SYNODAL PATHWAY QUESTIONS**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Overall response** | **PARISH THEME** | **WHOLE CHURCH THEME** |
| 1. **How welcoming do people find our Church?**
 | **Mostly positive** | * More social interaction,
* Welcome rota
* Embrace other cultures more
* LGBT not made to feel welcome
* Covid is giving false impression
* Vestibule not very inviting
 | * Embrace other cultures more
* It can be unwelcoming
 |
| 1. **Are we good listeners and do we feel we are listened to?**
 | **Mixed response** | * Need a platform to express our views eg Pastoral Council
 | * Not listened to, by Clergy/Bishops eg regarding changes in Liturgy
* Listen to Church’s teaching and not social media
 |
| 1. **Do we feel able to share our thoughts and ideas about the Church with each other?**
 | **Mixed response** | * We discuss topics but our opinions not relayed to those in authority.
* Discussions tend to be more on negative side
* Church bulletin a good way to communicate
 | * Parish/Deanery councils
* Need more channels with Church in general
 |
| 1. **How well does the Church’s liturgy inspire your faith and encourage others to do the same?**
 | **Mostly positive** | * Need to engage more in the Liturgy especially young people
* Ministries – reading, music, flowers, cleaning, catechist, altar servers, welcomers
* More prayer groups, teaching, learning
 | * No interaction on a Diocesan level
* Liturgy is the focal point of Faith
 |
| 1. **How well do I participate in the mission of the Church and share it with others?**
 | **Mostly positive**(Low Response rate) | * Seems to be left to same group of people
* Need to encourage volunteers
* Some try to participate when asked but felt they need to do more
 | * Evangelisation only at local level
 |
| 1. **How well do we, as the Church, engage with the wider world, or are we too focused on ourselves?**
 | **Mixed response**(Low Response rate) | * Need to be more open and welcoming to other churches locally.
* Too insular
 | * The church needs to address issues worldwide ie historic child abuse, contraception, abortion, LGBT.
* We are too focused on ourselves
 |
| 1. **What is our relationship like with those in other Christian traditions?**

**What can we learn from them – what can they we learn from us?** | **Mostly Positive**(Low Response rate) | * We are involved locally with Christians together and Cafod. But we could do better
* Learn from others, respect other traditions as we worship the same God
 | * Not aware of anything at Deanery or Diocesan level
 |
| 1. **How well do we work as a team in our Church?**
 | **Negative** | * Parish Priest not involved enough.
* Need for Parish Council and Youth Group
* Too many separate groups. Not enough coordination
 |  |
| 1. **How open are we, in our faith, to the guidance of the Holy Spirit?**
 | **Mostly positive** | * More prayer groups, Bible groups and opportunity for private prayer.
* Little understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit.
* Individually we are open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit but not always able to share it within groups.
 | * Church teaching is not very clear on the Holy Spirit
* Church is always open to the guidance of Holy Spirit
 |
| 1. **Can we see ways in which we might develop a more ‘synodal’ Church in a coming together of hearts and minds, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit?**
 | **Mostly positive** | * More social opportunities within the Parish
* Further links with schools and other churches
* Prayer groups, social gatherings etc.
 | * Church would be more encompassing/Synodal if we had women priests and married priests
* Church currently too masculine, low womens’ presence
* It is felt that people’s views not taken into consideration.
* Church should look to the past and learn from previous Synods
 |

**Other areas of concern put forward.**

* Higher level in the Church seems too masculine, needs more of a woman’s presence. At Parish level seems more balanced.
* Also some wished for more updates on issues such as gay marriage, married priests, divorce and women priests/deacons.
* Don’t change the Liturgy structure.
* Find ways within the mass to include other Cultures/Nationalities ie prayer in a different language etc.
* Church must move forward with the times.
* Parishes need more challenge, ie move priests around more
* How much is the Church open to change?
* Catechists working with parents to provide more follow up, particularly First Holy Communions.
* Parish/Church should be more organised and should provide more guidance for those new to our Parish or Catholicism.
* Covid has impacted the way our Parish is functioning