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

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

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| **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