

Notes taken at Plenary feedback from small group discussions on CHALLENGES AND FEARS.

(The notes offer barest headings – for more detail see the groups’ own notes, or speak with participants!)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to ensure sacramental ministry (particularly at end of life) will be available with fewer priests. • Need to engage younger parishioners • Wish to preserve Mass at least once a week in each parish, preferably including Sunday Mass • Promoting greater lay involvement – taking up responsibility for work that does not require a priest
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted the absence of young people from the meeting • Concern for ministering of last sacraments • Value of promoting social life of parish after Masses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern about people’s participation in Mass in person being replaced by on-line attendance (maybe reducing participation in life of parish, and not allowing for reception of sacrament) • Finances going forward
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youngsters disappearing from our parishes • Maybe there are additional forms of liturgy/prayer that would nourish people’s spirituality that we do not presently provide • Continuing impact of Abuse scandal in the Church • Why are people ok about being ‘good Christians’ but not wanting to be Church?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to learn from the work of the Synod pathway for learning and sharing together
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mass times • Youth involvement • Developing spirituality • How we will maintain/respect our buildings • Being ready to make great use of lay ministries – maybe even for baptism and marriage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to promote vocations • Church closures? • Worried about loss of parish identity if parishes replaced by Cluster
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family model for promoting faith has been model for parish life. Can it still be? • How big can a parish get before it stops being a parish, and people know one another?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How real a community are our parishes. People in group from same parish who did not know one another because at different Masses, for eg. • How to keep and develop community identity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we learn from the synod • How do we reach out to the vulnerable • How do we learn from the experience of other countries and community experiences?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow laicised clergy to resume sacramental ministry

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern for those without parish – eg prisoners • How engage/evangelise youngsters
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit of resources we have – women/men
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are lots of distractions now which impact on parish/Christian life • Continuing impact of COVID eroding even what was in place • How can we learn from experience of other dioceses?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern about mission not only administration • How do we support priests • How do we communicate with each other – learning what is happening at all levels: parish, diocese, nationally and internationally
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Want to maintain links clergy and schools
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aging population – both mass goers and clergy • More use of deacons and lay ministers • People wonder ‘why go to mass?’
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age profile • Challenge of secular world • Does Church offer what young people want