

Good Evening / Good Morning, I am Donal O'Shea and this is Bernie Tiernan and in March we facilitated the two parish gatherings for the Global Synod that Pope Francis has started. Today we want to ensure you get some feedback on the outcome of this, the listening phase of the process. The meetings were held in the Parish Centre on 2 Wednesdays either side of St Patricks Day. The first was attended by 58 people in total and the second by 78 people – and we were delighted with that. There was active engagement and participation by all. We had great support on the nights from the parish team and in particular the 8 individuals who put their hands up to be small group leaders.

On the first evening we were asked to reflect on what brings joy or sorrow when we think about our experience of church. On the second evening, it was about what brings hope or fear.

For the report that was sent back to the diocese we had to collate the comments and then extract themes that were emerging. Finally in the report we had to indicate what the Holy Spirit thought of it all. The themes that emerged are summarised on the back of the newsletter – and it would be great if you took a copy and had a look. There is more detailed information on the website.

The feedback was presented to the Parish Pastoral Council. Eventually we settled on saying that "The Hierarchy and the people within the Church need to make some brave, bold decisions - and soon. This is a new journey for us all and is on a very different landscape where each one of us needs to play our part, and participate as actively as we can". Thank you.