

Theme 1 – Care of the Earth



God in nature

**Care of our
common home
(Pope Francis)**

**Unconditional
love of
animals/pets**

Who has talked about Care of the Earth?

- Groups that spoke about this theme were **parishes, children, teenagers, third level,** and **religious groups.**
- Nature and animals were named very often as a source of finding truth, love, joy, hope – finding God's love.
- Laudato si', Pope Francis' encyclical invites all of us to contemplate creation to "discover in each thing a teaching which God wishes to hand on to us" (*Laudato si*, 85)

Questionnaires



281 mentions

Large Groups



27 mentions

Small Groups



15 mentions

Informal Listening



3 mentions

Theme 1 - Care of the Earth cont.



"I find joy in the sun, the moon, the stars, animals and nature"

*"When I sit in stillness.
When I'm in nature"
"In the unconditional love of my dog" (where I experience God's presence/love)*

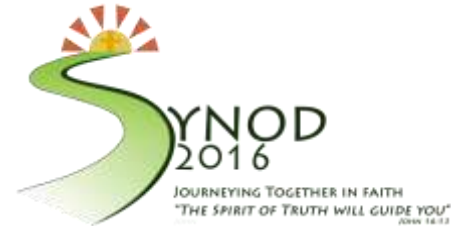
"God is everywhere from the working of human body, to nature, to each little miracle"

What are people saying?

*"Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience"
(Laudato si', 217)*

*"The ultimate purpose of other creatures is not to be found in us. Rather, all creatures are moving forward with us and through us to a common point of arrival, which is God"
(Laudato si', 83)*

Theme 2 - Community & Sense of Belonging



**Building
community**

**Social
gatherings**

**Declining
numbers**

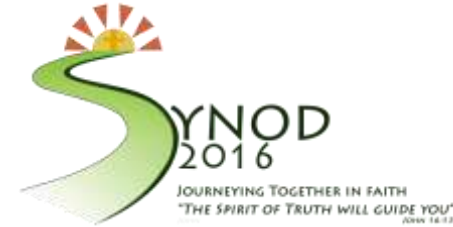
**Lack of
belonging**

Cliques

Caring ethos

Volunteers

Theme 2 - Community & Sense of Belonging cont.



Who has talked about Community & Belonging?

- Community and Belonging is the second most popular topic in the listening
- Mentioned across **parishes** and **other groups** such as the **Polish community** and **Fair Trade**
- Particularly evident in the **Traveller community, people with disabilities** and **third level students**

Questionnaires



3,689 mentions

Large Groups



355 mentions

Small Groups



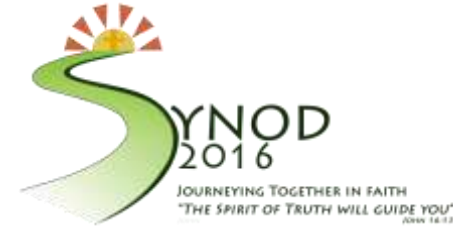
180 mentions

Informal Listening



19 mentions

Theme 2 - Community & Sense of Belonging cont.



"I see neighbours supporting each other through good times and bad, the elderly who are cared for in their own homes and the friendships of friends, neighbours and relations. I feel I am not alone."

"The community is doing excellent work – many people are giving of their time"

"Be inclusive and invite people to join in, all parishioners should be seen and acknowledged ... the born and bred locals have all the clout"

What are people saying?

"The Church must be seen to be more involved with the community always and not just special occasions"

"Unconditional welcome to all regardless of marital status, sexual orientation etc."

"Because young children are made to feel welcome in our parish young parents continue to come to the Church"

Theme 3 – Faith Formation / Education / Catechesis



**Adult faith
formation**

**How to live
the Gospel**

**Sacramental
preparation**

**RE in
schools**

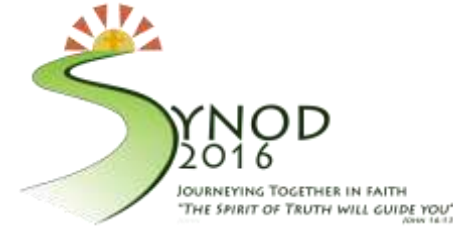
**Scripture /
bible study**

**Home /
School /
Parish links**

**Church teaching
versus lived
reality**

**Confession
(General Absolution)**

Theme 3 – Faith Formation / Education / Catechesis cont.



Who has talked about Faith Formation ...?

- The biggest topic is reconciling Church teaching versus lived reality. This is particularly evident in responses from **young people** (schools, colleges, Lourdes) as well as **people with disabilities** and those in **healthcare**.
- Adult Faith Formation and Religious Education are also key topics across **parishes** and **young people**.

Questionnaires



1,437 mentions

Large Groups



196 mentions

Small Groups



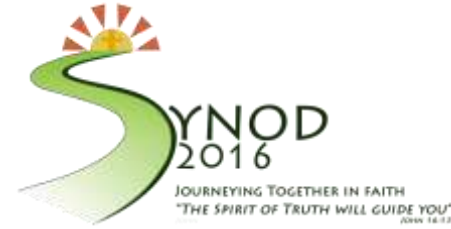
169 mentions

Informal Listening



21 mentions

Theme 3 – Faith Formation / Education / Catechesis cont.



"Need a different approach for young people ...older people are different, they have the tradition of faith and prayer. Need to chat with young people to see what are they interested in - need light hearted approach"

"To examine relations between home, school and parish"

"When people come to know Jesus as a person and share a personal relationship with him our understanding of the Church becomes clear"

What are people saying?

"Most people lead good lives – how can they be helped link their daily lives to their faith and their faith to daily lives"

"Faith is not an adult faith which can help people cope with real difficulties"

"Our religious teaching in schools is under threat. If this is allowed to happen it will be detrimental to future generations"

Theme 4 – Healing Hurts



**Church
response to
wrongdoings**

Issue of trust

Abortion

Mental health

Suicide

**LGBT
community**

Financial Difficulties

Who has talked about Healing Hurts?

- The Church's response to wrongdoings is the topic raised most often in this theme. This is particularly evident across **parishes** and in responses from **young people** (schools, colleges, Lourdes) as well as groups such as the **Irish speaking community**
- The need for a compassionate response to the LGBT community and those affected by abortion and suicide also feature strongly.
- Mental health is a particular issue for **young people** and groups such as the **Traveller community**

Questionnaires



412 mentions

Large Groups



90 mentions

Small Groups



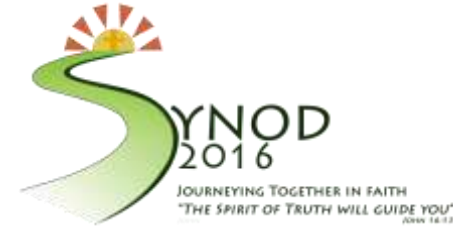
34 mentions

Informal Listening



2 mentions

Theme 4 – Healing Hurts cont.



"I am dissatisfied by the way the church abused its power and allowed abuse to go on by not dealing in a satisfactory way with those involved"

"Did God not make me? He made me gay so I don't have a home"

"Suicide is an epidemic and with 2 young children it worries me what kind of future they will have in a world full of pressure, cyber activity and worries..."

What are people saying?

"Mental health is a very serious issue of our time – the church can do more"

"The church must be kinder and more considerate"

"I would like to gently mention that my God does not discriminate on colour, sex or sexual orientation"

Theme 5 - Liturgy & Life



Joyful & life-giving

Music

Child-friendly

Hearing the word of God

Homilies

Creative liturgies

Ritual – special moments

Who has talked about Liturgy?

- Meaningful, joyful liturgy is of concern across all groups
- Music in liturgy is the highest ranking topic in the Liturgy theme; particularly evident in **secondary students, third level students** and **active Church groups**
- Language in liturgy is also a concern and was named as such by the **Irish speaking community**
- The Church environment is particularly important to **people with disabilities** and the **traveller community**

Questionnaires



2,606 mentions

Large Groups



299 mentions

Small Groups



197 mentions

Informal Listening



70 mentions

Theme 5 - Liturgy & Life cont.



"I attend Mass because I enjoy it – lovely priest and great community spirit"

"Attending weekly Mass and the choir - great joy in singing"

"Little or no understanding of issues for ordinary people" (homilies)

"Nothing encourages me, no sense of occasion anymore, no feeling of joy or enlightenment after Sunday Mass"

What are people saying?

"People don't connect with something because it doesn't relate to their lives"

"A revamp of communicating the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ"

"The sheer joy of being in God's presence in the stillness of the Church and his presence everyday as I go about my life"

Theme 6 – Ministry Roles



Education & training

Clear roles

Invitation to participate

Voluntary options

Empowerment of Laity

Active roles for children and young people

Time Poverty

Who has talked about Ministry Roles?

- The inclusion of young people and lay involvement are the highest ranking concerns in this theme.
- Particularly evident in **parishes**, and also among **teenagers** and **children**

Questionnaires



1,604 mentions

Large Groups



161 mentions

Small Groups



74 mentions

Informal Listening



13 mentions

Theme 6 – Ministry Roles cont.

"I want to see a vibrant church to continue for the generations to come – the depleted clergy cannot cope without help from the laity".

"Not active – never been asked"

"Consider what members of the laity can bring to the Church both in liturgy and the wider life of the Church"

What are people saying?

"Good sound parish organisation – priests, pastoral councils, Eucharistic ministers etc."

"Involve younger people where possible – give them responsibility"

"Practical training programmes to ensure that clergy and laity are properly prepared. Ongoing supervisory systems to ensure accountability and professional practice."

Theme 7 - New Models of Pastoral Leadership; facing the new reality



Role of laity

Role of women

Accountability

Finance

Shortage of clergy

Role of clergy

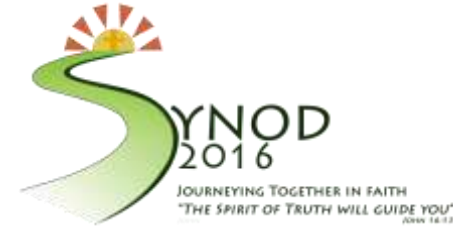
Vocations

Governance

**Spiritual
leadership**

Communications

Theme 7 - New Models of Pastoral Leadership cont.



Who has talked about Leadership?

- The need for new, skilled leadership models was particularly evident in **parishes** and **third level students**
- Personal skills of pastoral leaders, the shortage of vocations, married clergy and the role of women in leadership are the highest ranking issues under the theme of leadership.

Questionnaires



2,451 mentions

Large Groups



265 mentions

Small Groups



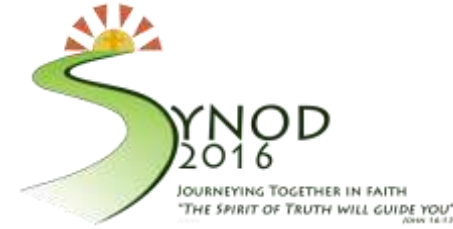
170 mentions

Informal Listening



19 mentions

Theme 7 - New Models of Pastoral Leadership cont.



“More involvement of the lay leaders of the Church in its daily running”

“Meaningful roles with responsibility, not lip service”

“Often priests’ role is taken for granted”

“With the absence of any kind of pastoral group in the community how can we prepare for a future without a priest?”

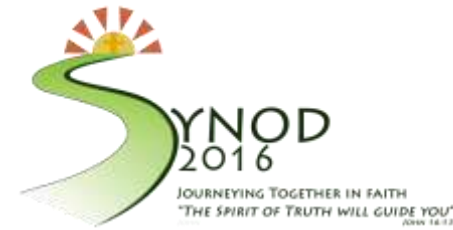
What are people saying?

“Women have been carrying the Church for many generations without formal recognition or thanks”

“The question of parish finances need to be reviewed and discussed”

“I would like to see the shortage of priests addressed with positive action rather than an expression of impending doom”

Theme 8 - Pastoral Care of the Family



**Role of parents /
guardians in passing
on the faith**

**Family
relationships**

**Caring for
children**

**Separation /
Divorce**

**Caring for
elderly/sick**

**2nd
relationships**

**Gay marriage,
equality for gay
people**

Theme 8 - Pastoral Care of the Family

cont.



Who has talked about Family?

- Family is the single highest ranking topic across all the listening
- Mentioned across **parishes** and **all other groups**
- Particularly evident in **primary, secondary and third level groups**

Questionnaires



2,225 mentions

Large Groups



170 mentions

Small Groups



89 mentions

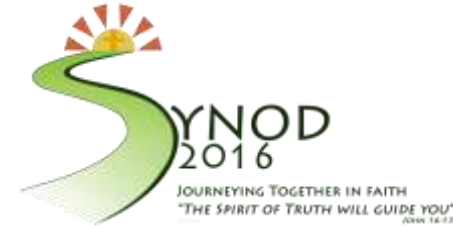
Informal Listening



13 mentions

Theme 8 - Pastoral Care of the Family

cont.



"As a parent of young children faith is important to me. I want to hand that faith on to my children. By bringing them to the local Church I can instil faith/beliefs in their life."

"Ways to make the Church more a part of family life".

"Why is the official Church not showing the love it preaches about especially towards gay people who have suffered so much?"

What are people saying?

"Family and especially divorced and the way the Church doesn't welcome them"

"Provide help and support for children of separated and divorced families"

"In my own home and family I have the love and respect of my own family – they are all good citizens even though they are not all good church goers."

Theme 9 – Social Justice



People on the margins

Poverty

Safety

Voiceless-ness of people on the margins

Outward migration

Social Justice

Wellbeing

Who has talked about Social Justice?

- Social Justice for People on the margins was discussed across **parishes**, by **young people** (teenagers, Lourdes) and groups such as **people with disabilities** and **religious groups**.
- The voiceless-ness of those on the margins was raised as a specific issue.

Questionnaires



248 mentions

Large Groups



37 mentions

Small Groups



14 mentions

Informal Listening



3 mentions

Theme 9 – Social Justice cont.



"The real-life concerns of the people ... poverty/austerity, sense of safety and wellbeing, outward migration of over half the population, housing conditions ...situation of children, voicelessness / powerlessness."

"A pro-active approach to new immigrants"

"The church has to be seen as an organisation that is there to help the poor and discouraged – it has to work hard to be socially inclusive"

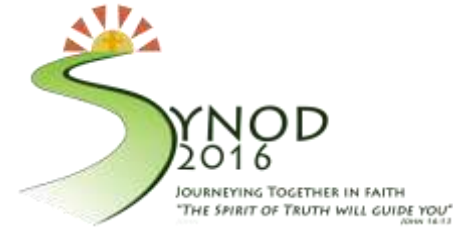
What are people saying?

"The Church is missing the point within the terrible tragedy of drugs and young people"

"How are we caring for the poor and marginalised – do we know who they are?"

"Church of service – need for outreach; how can we be a Church who serves? ... Inclusion of the marginalised is not always reflected in what we are doing"

Theme 10 – Spirituality & Ways of Praying



Meditation

Personal Prayer

Special moments

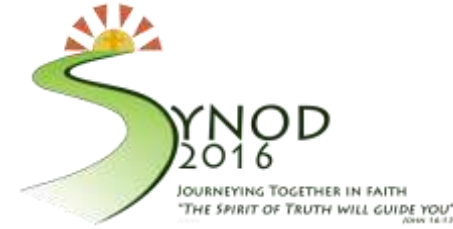
Multi-denomination experience

Mindfulness

Adoration

Reflection

Theme 10 – Spirituality & ways of praying cont.



Who has talked about Spirituality?

- Personal prayer is the highest ranking topic in the Spirituality theme, noted particularly across **parishes** and groups such as the **Traveller community**
- An appreciation of the value of meditation featured strongly amongst **children**, the **healthcare sector** and **third level students**
- Adoration was cited as a positive faith experience across **parishes**

Questionnaires



398 mentions

Large Groups



52 mentions

Small Groups



39 mentions

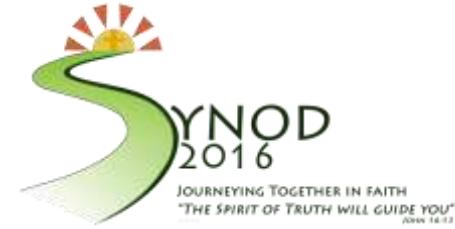
Informal Listening



4 mentions

Theme 10 – Spirituality & ways of praying

cont.



"I see God in the centre of my life I could not go on this earth without believing he is with me at all times. It gives me great hope"

"I find prayer a great source of fulfilment in my daily life"

"My Mom died of cancer. She never smoked or drank, she was fit and full of life, I prayed God would help her, unfortunately He didn't hear me...."

What are people saying?

"Reaching out to people who want to embrace their spirituality and making Church a place to do that without the pressure of going to Mass weekly to do so"

"I sometimes feel there is no need for me to practise in order to believe"

"I always pray for peace of mind for myself and for anyone who is troubled. It is the greatest gift and grace to receive"

Theme 11 – Women in the Church



**Vocation of
women
(multi-layered)**

**Deaconate role
for women**

**Ordination of
women**

Tokenism

Who has talked about Women in the Church?

- The vocation of women in the Church was raised across **parishes** and groups such as **the Lourdes group**
- Ordination of women featured strongly amongst **parishes**, **children**, **teenagers** and **third level** students

Questionnaires



617 mentions

Large Groups



67 mentions

Small Groups



33 mentions

Informal Listening



3 mentions

Theme 11 – Women in the Church cont.



"I feel women are the backbone of the Church and to see them as 'second-class' citizens in the roles they play in the Church is very unfair."

"The role of women in a meaningful way – not tokenism"

"If you look at the profile of those who participate in the church it is mostly women, yet they have no meaningful role"

What are people saying?

"The role of women in the Church. This is essential for the future 'health' of the Church"

"If in God's eyes we are all equal, then why not in the Catholic Church"

"It is hard to work sometimes when females are being classed as "useful" but not given any or much authority".

Theme 12 – Young People



Disenfranchised
Accessible language

Dialogue with young people
Experience of liturgy

Youth clubs
Youth Ministry

Clash of youth activities with mass times
Youth Mass

Who has talked about Young People?

- The engagement and empowerment of young people is of concern across **all groups**
- The disenfranchisement of young people, their negative experience of liturgy and their competing interests are of greatest concern in this theme.
- Accessible language is of particular concern to **children**, **teenagers** and **third level students**

Questionnaires



744 mentions

Large Groups



110 mentions

Small Groups



66 mentions

Informal Listening



2 mentions

Theme 12 – Young People cont.

"I like going to mass but it is really boring because the Priest only talks about adult stuff and uses words we don't understand"

"Youth activities clash with Mass times"

"I don't like the message that we constantly get at Mass - that life is difficult and that I have to accept this"

What are young people saying?

"I feel let down by the Church due to the things they have done in the past"

"Youth are searching for God in everyday things"

"I would like to see the Confirmation class involved in the Sunday readings"

"You should get teenagers in secondary schools to read at mass"