Our Lady of Lourdes, Harpenden Synodal Listening sessions: February 2024

evangelize

We love our faith and Our lives and wish we had more mental well being are examples to confidence to

Pull not Push

others

'We' is important but focus on the 'I' – practice your faith gently, quietly, show what it means to be a good person, start at home

> Our beliefs can seem at odds with the society we live in – be courageous, live our example, there is a thirst for meaning in young people and society, (mindfulness etc)

Need a paid youth worker... We don't need one....We have all the resources in our parish, things happen – just need to activate people and give support

The Ministry of Music - makes mass vibrant and emotive

Youth programmes can be ecumenical

Do not be afraid. respect the riches of our faith

We find it hard to speak to our children and those who have stepped away – wish we had the tools

Much is actually happening in our Parish, it is great, but support is low and it's not all connected

The new confirmation prog and youth is excellent - but feels unsupported, parents say they would like but then their children don't come

We can't blame confidence –

people just don't get involved

its always the same people

doing things

The Parish does things well

Youth respond to a sense of mission doing things for other people, tangible ways to help and serve those in need Ask Youth to lead, to step up

We would like on going formation and bible study – not only concentrated around life events

There are crises and misconceptions of the Church, much ignorance, we need to take our faith into the community

> Look honestly at our Parish, where are the fruits

closer contact

What is said at the front is important, link to issues in our community, encourage our community behaviours, link to the issues of the day in the world

What is said from the pulpit is vital - we would welcome more voices and messages - but we cannot rely only on the Priest to build and nuture our community

We are all the Church – men and women – - Lav there is no more us and them – mutual responsibility

Catholics are bad at teaching the bible

Do the lentern groups all year - ongoing bible study, look at the stories Jesus told us to share

More ecumenical - more done through Churches together meet together and plan. More done across faiths

We enjoy being in community with each other and long for Sign of peace needs a reset

> Welcome newcomers to our community in mass

Use technology, podcasts to hear more voices

Can't rely on the same model of Priests, we will need lay people, married Priests, women ...

Language is so important.

Too much sinner and hypocrisy - live and believe deeply

Synodality is welcome and refreshing - we find it connecting uplifting, we wait to see what change comes from it

> When we talk we find out we agree, we share views 'tho very different ages, contexts etc, it is beautiful to share together

We don't know when people are ill or die we should, the parish is a family

the Priest

Hard to hear

Whatsapp group to share updates and reflections

> Invite testimonies during mass

We sit next to each other but don't talk – the youth mass does intros, can we do this always

Make it welcoming not judgmental - not rigid, a set of rules to meet Structure and traditions can be a hurdle. Is enough changing?