

## **Christ the King Parish, Bedford (Synod Individual Response)**

### ***1. Communion: What does it mean to you to be a Catholic?***

I am privileged to be a Catholic. I regard myself as following, together with all other Catholics now and once living, the same teaching handed down directly from the apostles who were taught by Christ. I have the certainty in the fundamentals of my beliefs and how to understand the scriptures. Despite all the historic and current travails caused by its sinful human members, I am confident it always was, is and will be the body of Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit.

### ***2. Participation: What are some of your experiences of the Church doing things well?***

- The apparent ever decreasing number of priests are still somehow managing to provide the Mass and other sacraments to the faithful.
- Continuing vigilance and improvement is always needed but the England and Wales Catholic bishops have established a good safeguarding system.
- Pope Francis is setting a wonderful example to all Catholics, other Christians and the world by his poverty and following the footsteps of St Francis and Christ. He is striving to bring the Church in line with the important Second Vatican reforms.
- They can never be a substitute for physical presence at Mass and to receive the Eucharist, but the recent livestreaming of Masses and other services has enabled those unable otherwise to attend to do so on-line and has been a great success.
- Not quite doing well, but the recent standardisation of Diocesan Parish websites enables all parishes to attain the same standard plus full information to their parishioners.
- Some excellent courses such as the Bible timeline provided to parishioners.

### ***3. What are some of your experiences of the Church when things have not gone so well?***

Many Catholics misunderstand their faith and probably arising from this some have a lack of reverence inside Churches. A lack of understanding also leads some to cease to practise their faith. The Church is generally very poor in use of new technology and has little information automatically always on-line.

### ***4. Mission: What are our dreams, hopes and aspirations for the Church?***

I wish that all Catholics should properly understand the wondrous beauty of the Mass and their faith in general. The Church should help to resolve the lack of information by much better use of new technology. Every parish should have links to

- the full text of the Bible – both the Vatican and the US bishops have links to the links:  
[https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0839/\\_INDEX.HTM](https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0839/_INDEX.HTM)  
. <https://bible.usccb.org/bible>
- the Catechism of the Catholic Church– it is scandalous that hardly any Catholics know this sublime document exists which could resolve so many queries for Catholics and non-Catholics alike about the teaching of the Church  
[https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/\\_INDEX.HTM](https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_INDEX.HTM)
- the Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church – a wonderful information source for young people chrome-

extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/viewer.html?pdfurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdowcym.org%2Fdocuments%2Fresources%2FYOUCAT.pdf&clen=10134415&chunk=true

- the Catholic bishops of England and Wales website
- I appreciate the danger of non-official Church sources but there are countless other information sources such as Catholic answers (<https://www.catholic.com/>), Catholic Productions, the Augustine Institute, etc

The Church is one, holy, Catholic and apostolic. As the body of Christ and the temple of the Holy Spirit it is automatically all of these. I long for the human membership of our pilgrim Church who are inevitably sinners who strive for holiness to be even more one, holy, Catholic, and apostolic. The world would recognise it as the body of Christ. To achieve this the Church should be united behind the teaching of the Second Vatican Council and St Francis, and one in accordance with Christ's prayer (Jn 13:35). I also aspire for the laity to be able to fulfil their vocation to spread the gospel and evangelise and sanctify the world in accordance with Vatican II's *Apostolicam Actuositatem*.