

# **Second Gathering: Participation**

## **LEADER**

*Welcome participants back to the second session. Ensure any new members are particularly acknowledged and made to feel a part of the group. Explain that in this session the focus is on **Participation**.*

(5 minutes)

## **ADSUMUS PRAYER**

**We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.**

**With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;**

**Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.**

**We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.**

**Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path  
nor partiality influence our actions.**

**Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together  
to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.**

**All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.**

*Invite someone to proclaim the following passage of scripture*

## **A reading the Acts of the Apostles**

2:1-8

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language?'

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

*Reflect for a moment in silence*

## Questions for Discussion

### IV. Celebrating

#### **How might Mass or other ceremonies help us participate at a deeper level?**

Do our celebrations in church inspire a deeper encounter with the risen Lord? How does our prayer – both individually and in our community – enable our participation in the mission of the Church? Is the Eucharist the centre of our, and our community's life? What flows from the Sunday (or daily) Eucharist, from our communities into the world? What do we give thanks to God for in prayer? What do we seek from him?

(15 minutes)

Yes, our celebrations in church inspire a deeper encounter with the risen Lord although it was felt this was a difficult even maybe not a good question. Considered it more to be what does the Lord seek from us, we should go out from Mass and take our encounter to other people by e.g., a smile. "Mass begins when you leave Church". We have more of a town not a village community with diverse groups in church who do not necessarily know each other so good to talk to people not seen before. Friendly church and welcoming, helped by recent return of sign of peace even if it is a nod across church. Friendliness, companionship and love flows from the Eucharist and perhaps more to be done at a local level to increase 'community spirit' post Covid. Welcomers should be encouraged following on from stewards, coffee after mass.

Interesting point of 'tension' between desire of some to chat in church while others seek silence for prayer although felt that everything that happens in church that makes people feel they belong is a good thing; so a quick chat might not be a bad thing

Agree/strongly agree the mass/worship helps us in our Christian lives

Based on your discussions do you agree/disagree with this statement?

**'The Mass/Worship helps us in our Christian lives.'** (Please tick one box)

Very Strongly Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Sure	<input type="checkbox"/>	Very Strongly Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strongly Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

## V. Taking Responsibility Together

### How well do we collaborate with the priests and others in the Church?

How is each Baptized person called to be missionary? How does the Church community support its members committed to service in society (in the promotion of social justice, in the protection of human rights, and in caring for the earth etc.)? How are mission-related choices made, and who participates in them? How do we collaborate with our priest?

(15 minutes)

Initially felt that this was a difficult too broad a topic to address in 15 minutes with topic of collaboration versus the question below, which is the key point, for sharing faith in the community. Showing/sharing our faith is by leading by example in our community, showing love and care for others. In terms of church groups that engage in the community there has been some loss of momentum partly through Covid and finding people with busy lives willing to take forward organisations such as KSC. Thankfully, Eucharistic ministers can go out again and frequently spend time just chatting as well as giving communion. At a local Parish level perhaps a forum to discuss issues might be useful such as social or environmental matters. Perhaps the PPC could be more pro-active in encouraging activity but once more it is finding people to engage. Other initiatives have restarted such as sending food to a food bank while ongoing support continues through teaching English language. Maybe more could be done to address social injustice in a focused manner.

Our priest engages and collaborates although a view was made that possibly some younger priests appear to have a perspective of a higher status than the laity. Suggestion that we only collaborate with our priest when we need something!

Felt strongly that we wanted to be able to share our faith.

Based on your discussions do you agree/disagree with this statement?

**'We want to be able to share our faith with others in our community.'**

**(Please tick one box)**

Very Strongly Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Sure	<input type="checkbox"/>	Very Strongly Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strongly Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

## VI. Dialogue in Church and Society

### How might we improve our conversations within our faith community and also outside of it?

How do we understand dialogue (respectful conversation) between Church and the wider Society? Do we see dialogue as a unique contribution that the Church can make to the world? How do we address the challenges that dialogue brings about? How do we begin to dialogue with others?

(15 minutes)

Stalled start trying to understand what the dialogue (respectful conversation) is about, perhaps just listening without judgement, understanding where the other person might be coming from even if you do not agree with it. Could be respectful conversation on social or political matters and not being a 'fortress church' which was a term many had not heard off.

Dialogue was seen as a unique contribution that the Church can make but making its voice heard is not easy in a secular society. The challenges should be addressed jointly, maybe starting with local issues to show that the church cares – love thy neighbour. Involvement with other community organisations can only help, the challenge again is finding people to engage...

Based on your discussions do you agree/disagree with this statement?

**'We often have conversations with others who have differing beliefs.'**

**(Please tick one box)**

Very Strongly Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Sure	<input type="checkbox"/>	Very Strongly Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strongly Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>		

## VII. Other Christian Denominations

### How might we improve our relationships with our non-Catholic Christian brothers and sisters?

What is our relationship with other Christian communities? Do we listen to each other as we journey on our pilgrim way? What enriches us from other traditions? What do we offer them from ours?

(15 minutes)

Locally the church is represented at 'Churches Together' although it appeared not many were aware of this and what happens, perhaps more co-ordination and feedback would help, occasional input to Parish Newsletter? Lost its way a bit so maybe we should help it get going.

Mention was made of joint events that took place many years ago such as a joint Pilgrimage to Waslingham. Relations vary between Parishes and Churches which in turn depends upon personalities and individual/group situations. Also involved in 'World of Prayer' with more interaction and goodwill than previously experienced.

"We should never do separately what we can do together"

Based on your discussions do you agree/disagree with this statement?

**'We get on well with non-Catholic Christians' (Please tick one box)**

Very Strongly Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Sure	<input type="checkbox"/>	Very Strongly Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strongly Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>		

## **LEADER**

*Thank everyone very much for all their contributions and invite them to a short time of intercessory prayer. You may use the following wording: 'We have a few moments to bring everything we have discussed to God. We give thanks for all the good that our parish has done and continues to do, but we also pray for the strength and guidance that will allow us to grow as a community. I invite you now, either out loud or in the silence of your heart, to offer a prayer for any of the topics that we have discussed today.' Allow people to offer prayers*

We gather all our prayers, both spoken and unspoken, and offer them to God our Father, using the words our saviour gave us...

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name..... Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen**

**END**