

Synodal sharings with Offley Endowed Primary School and Nursery

17th January 2022

Pope Francis has launched a worldwide 'synod' process. Synod simply means 'journeying together'. The Holy Father is inviting us to listen deeply to one another and to discern what God is saying to the Church about how we 'journey together'. Our Lady's Church in Hitchin has had our own synodal pathway, within our parish and wanted to listen to other communities in our area. We invited the children at Offley School to take part and their sharings will go to the Diocese of Westminster, united with every diocese across the world. Then, after national and continental gatherings, the Synod of Bishops will gather in Rome in 2023 to reflect on what has been heard.

We were very grateful for the wonderful welcome we received from the staff and children at Offley school. The sharings were very powerful and insightful and followed simple questions outlined below.

Synodal Pathway

We journey together and talk and listen

I talk about things. I say what I think and what I feel.



You listen to

I have to



what

say.

Then you talk and I will listen.

Things we can share about

What has been good for you during the pandemic?

What has made you sad during the pandemic?

Where do you think God was during the pandemic?

What is it like to have Jesus as your friend?

Who is the Holy Spirit?

Responses

Year 3

What has been good for you during the pandemic?

- Spent time with my family
- Had fun with friends
- I spent more time with my family and not at school
- I made new friends in the area where I live on our small walks
- Playing with my toys and not going to school
- To go out more

What has made you sad during the pandemic?

- I didn't like not being able to visit my friends
- I couldn't see my friends in the park
- I didn't get to go to school or play out with my friends
- I couldn't see my cousins or my best friend
- It made me sad when some of my older family died during the pandemic
- One of my family died of covid

Where do you think God is during the pandemic?

- God is in heaven looking after those who died during the pandemic
- He was watching over us
- He made certain more people didn't die
- God was making friends in heaven

What is it like to have Jesus as your friend?

- That he's always with you which makes me feel comfortable and safe
- He's always by your side to help you through tough times
- When you are sad you can speak to him about it
- We can talk to the sky and he hears us
- When we do our prayers, he's listening to us.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

- God is the Holy Spirit. God comes in three persons, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit
- The biggest thing Jesus did was to die for us
- Jesus left behind his Spirit

Year 4/5

What has been good for you during the pandemic?

- Spend time with sisters
- I've got a bit healthier
- It made me go out and exercise
- I got a cat
- My dog was an emotional support
- My family and I got closer
- Spent more time outside
- I started exercising outside
- I learnt something new

What has made you sad during the pandemic?

- Not seeing friends and extended family
- Not being allowed out
- Getting covid
- Didn't like the bubbles
- Christmas was cancelled
- Birthday was spoiled
- People passed away
- Home schooling wasn't fun

Where do you think God is during the pandemic?

- In heaven – trying to control / help us
- He is everywhere – leading the way
- Watching over us
- Making sure we are happy

What is it like to have Jesus as your friend?

- He guides us in what we do
- He is a mind reader
- Conscience
- He helped us, taught us, sacrificed himself for us.
- Helps us make good choices

Who is the Holy Spirit?

- Jesus – his Spirit
- A bird

Is it true that when Jesus returns everyone who has died will return?

If God made the world, who made covid?

Year 5/6

What has been good for you during the pandemic?

- Spending time with my family
- Lots of time to lie in
- I liked home learning
- I ate my favourite things
- I could see nature healing – the environment was safer
- I cleared out and sorted my house

What has made you sad during the pandemic?

- Couldn't see my extended family
- Home schooling
- No football practice
- Thinking about all the things I could be doing
- Not going to school
- Frightened about getting covid
- Only being allowed out once a day
- Wearing around people
- Not being able to do clubs I enjoy
- Things being cancelled

Where do you think God is during the pandemic?

- He was with people who were having a tough time because people they knew were dying
- Comforting our hearts during the tough times
- He was supporting scientists to find a cure
- God wanted us to make good choices
- God created covid to make us stop and think

What is it like to have Jesus as your friend?

- He makes the right choices for us
- You don't often notice it but Jesus helps us
- He is with you in good times and bad times

Questions If you don't think Jesus is a friend – why? How do you become a friend of Jesus?

We can pray / talk to Jesus

You do not need to kneel / put your hands together – you just have to talk.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

- The Holy Spirit is part of God
- Part of what Christians call the 'Holy Trinity'
- Jesus biggest achievement was to die on the cross, Jesus left his Spirit.

Reception

What has been good for you during the pandemic?

- Felt happy
- We could stay at home to watch TV, play switch games, naughts and crosses and kindle
- Playing with my sisters
- Playing with my brother
- Eating cake
- Walks

What has made you sad during the pandemic?

- We couldn't go out
- We couldn't go anywhere
- We couldn't go to Nan's
- Some people broke the rules
- Not being with friends
- Not playing or learning with friends
- Not being able to see family

Where do you think God is during the pandemic?

- God will help us and talk to us
- He sent his son Jesus to talk to us

What is it like to have Jesus as your friend?

- Jesus helps lots of people

Who is the Holy Spirit?

- What make 'Jesus', Jesus
- Your spirit is what makes 'you' you

Year 2

What has been good for you during the pandemic?

- Spending more time with family
- Playing
- Spending time at home
- Being able to go on holiday
- More time with toys at home
- Not getting covid
- Video calls with family / friends
- Being able to see family again
- Quality time / games with family
- Eating lots of takeaways

What has made you sad during the pandemic?

- Having covid
- Not being able to go out much
- Not seeing family in hospital
- Isolating
- Note seeing family / friends

Where do you think God is during the pandemic?

- In heaven – helping others
- Helping us to learn
- Self- isolating
- Helping doctors and nurses

- Helping emergency services
- Helping us to be nice

What is it like to have Jesus as your friend?

- It means we're kind and calm
- Helps us to be respectful
- It's helpful
- Helps us to be generous
- Shows love
- Kind, care, trust
- Being great

How do we know Jesus is our friend – by talking to him

- We pray

Who is the Holy Spirit?

- Jesus
- God
- Disciples
- People who trust Jesus and know him

Year 1

What has been good for you during the pandemic?

- Feeling better after being ill
- Playing with my toys
- Having time off school
- Spending time with family
- Doing home learning with my dad
- Movie days

- Going out when we were allowed to
- Having ice-creams at our house

What has made you sad during the pandemic?

- Not being able to see my friends
- Not being able to come to school and play with lego or football
- Not being able to walk my puppy
- Not seeing my grandparents
- When my parents had covid
- My nanny died

Where do you think God is during the pandemic?

- In heaven
- In the stars
- In the clouds
- Everywhere
- He's been helping us
- Trying to help other people to persevere
- We needed help to try to not die.
- Jesus helped us and helped paramedics to help us

What is it like to have Jesus as your friend?

- I try to trick Jesus but he isn't tricked
- We can pray
- Put our question on a cloud and let it float to Jesus
- It makes us happy because we are grateful to have him

Who is the Holy Spirit?

- Jesus and God

- The universe
- Funerals when people die
- Jesus' Dad
- Nature
- People who go to church