

GLENELG CATHOLIC PARISH FORUM, 1st DECEMBER 2019, 1 pm ST MARY'S HALL
INFORMATION REGARDING THE THEMES THAT EMERGED FROM PHASE 1: LISTENING & DIALOGUE

THEME 1: MISSIONARY AND EVANGELISING – SNAPSHOT REPORT, NATIONAL THEMES FOR DISCERNMENT

As we move into this second stage of the Plenary Council journey, we continue to seek the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. We are invited to reflect on Scripture, Church teaching and our contemporary situation in order to discern the answer to this question: ***How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is missionary and evangelising?*** The fruits of what is discerned during this time will help shape the agenda of the first session of Plenary Council in October 2020.

This National Theme for Discernment is inspired by the voices of the People of God who shared a passion for participating in the missionary nature of the Church and desire stronger support, involvement and formation among all the baptised who make up the Church.

The data also identified the need to reach out and communicate more effectively and to find new ways of living and proclaiming the Gospel in Australia today. There was a call for the strengthening of leadership and ministries in parishes and schools, training to equip leaders for ministry, pastoral support for various groups within parish and faith communities, and a desire for a unified voice in engaging social issues such as life and religious freedom.

WHAT DID PEOPLE TALK ABOUT IN PHASE 1?

People spoke about a number of different topics in PHASE 1: LISTENING & DIALOGUE.

Below are some of the topics that informed this particular theme, which was created through a combination of analysis, discernment and prayer.

- Affordable adult faith formation courses
- Authentic faith teaching in Catholic schools
- Be a witness in society
- Better communication of what the Church does
- Better faith formation
- Better formation for liturgical ministries and sacramental programs
- Better homilies
- Better preparation and support for married couples
- Better selection and formation of candidates to priesthood
- Better teachers in Catholic schools
- Better training and support for youth leaders
- Better youth faith formation
- Church should adapt to multicultural reality
- Church to act as a guide for Australian society
- Concerns for diminishing parish communities
- Defend Religious Freedom
- Defend right-to-life issues
- Encourage vocations
- End celibacy, allow priests to be married
- Establish more youth programs
- Evangelisation in and of the family
- Faith formation for parents
- Fight for human rights issues
- Focus on mission, being missionary disciples
- Focus on the new evangelisation
- Greater connection with and inclusion of Indigenous Australians
- Greater focus on Jesus Christ
- Greater focus on permanent deacons
- Greater focus on the Word of God
- Greater leadership from Bishops
- Greater leadership from priests
- Greater role for women
- Greater support for RCIA
- Greater trust, faith and hope in God
- Keep the commandments
- Keep the faith
- Listen to one another more
- Listen to the Holy Spirit
- More chaplains, youth ministers in Catholic schools
- More formation for priests
- Outreach to all the baptised
- Outreach to the wider community
- Putting Gospel values in action
- Remain faithful to Church teaching
- Remain faithful to Church teaching on marriage
- Share the faith with others
- Use social media to engage people
- Welcome back priests who have left to marry

WHAT WILL YOU/WE DISCERN FROM THIS THEME?

YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GLENELG CATHOLIC PARISH PLENARY COUNCIL 2020 FORUM ON 1ST DECEMBER.

PLEASE REGISTER YOUR INTEREST ON THE BOOKING SHEET IN THE FOYER.