



PLENARY COUNCIL, PHASE 2: LISTEN AND DISCERN

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

THEME 2: INCLUSIVE, PARTICIPATORY AND SYNODAL - 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 inclusive, participatory and synodal?*** 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 expressed a desire for individuals and groups within and also beyond the Church to find a better welcome and be incorporated more into her life and mission. There was a call to renew forms of governance and leadership in the Church, to find ways formally and informally of being co-responsible for ministry and mission, seeking structures and processes of collaboration, shared decision-making and financial co-responsibility in order to enable this greater involvement of lay people particularly of women, young people, people of diverse cultural backgrounds and people with disabilities. There was an expressed need for stronger connections across the many parts of the Church, and with other Christian traditions.

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.

- A voice in the selection and appointment of bishops
- Affordable adult faith formation courses
- Baby Boomer generation to listen to young Catholics
- Become a Vatican II church
- Better communication of what the Church does
- Better implementation of Royal Commission Recommendations
- Better interface between parish and school
- Better Plenary Council process
- Better preparation and support for married couples
- Better selection and formation of candidates to priesthood
- Better teachers in Catholic schools
- Better use of finances
- Care for neighbour
- Care for the environment
- Care for the family
- Church should adapt to multicultural reality
- Communion for all
- Concerns for diminishing parish communities
- Creation of small communities/groups within parishes
- Cultural Masses
- Defend right-to-life issues
- Diocesan Pastoral Council
- End celibacy, allow priests to be married
- End Clericalism
- End discrimination of LGBTQ
- Establish more youth programs
- Evangelisation in and of the family
- Faith formation for parents
- Fight for human rights issues
- Focus on Ecumenism
- Greater access to Mass and Reconciliation
- 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 inclusion of all people
- Greater involvement of the laity
- Greater leadership from priests
- Greater recognition of Eastern Catholic Churches
- Greater role for women
- Greater trust, faith and hope in God
- Hierarchy to listen to the laity
- Importance of Communion services in rural parishes
- Inclusion of the divorced and remarried
- Laity supporting priests
- Lay-led parishes
- Lay-led liturgies and Masses
- Listen to one another more
- Mass to be appealing to youth and children
- Modernise Church teachings
- More chaplains, youth ministers in Catholic schools
- More formation for priests
- More transparency and accountability regarding clergy sexual abuse
- More welcoming parishes
- New leadership and governance model
- New model of Church, diocese, parish
- Ordaining married men to be priests
- Ordination of women
- Outreach to all the baptised
- Outreach to the wider community
- Outreach to youth
- Overseas priests
- Parish pastoral council
- Parishes involved in planning for the future
- Provide more youth facilities in parishes
- Putting Gospel values in action
- Radical change, a new order, inverted pyramid
- Restore the Third Rite of Reconciliation
- Servant leadership
- Share the faith with others
- Special care of rural parishes
- Stronger parish communities
- Support same-sex marriage
- Transparency in governance and decision making
- Use social media to engage people
- Welcome back priests who have left to marry
- Women deacons
- Work together in unity
- Youth to be involved more in Church community...

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.