

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

**THEME 3: HUMBLE, HEALING AND MERCIFUL – 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.

The National Theme for Discernment is inspired by the voices of the People of God who expressed a deep and faith-filled trust in God and a need for lament and healing within the Church, acknowledging the sexual abuse crisis as a turning point for the Church in Australia. It identified the need for relationship and reconciliation among many within the Catholic community, and with the wider Australian society, particularly with Australia's First Peoples and with all of creation. A desire was expressed for stronger prayer and sacramental life and more effective outreach to those who seek healing, as a renewed openness to and sign of God's mercy.

**What did people talk about in Phase 1?**

People spoke about a number of different topics in Phase 1, Listening and Dialogue. A comprehensive report on all the voices of participants in PHASE 1: LISTENING & DIALOGUE is available on [www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/reports](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/reports)  
Below are some of the topics that informed this particular theme, that was created through a combination of analysis, discernment and prayer.

- Allow contraception, birth control
- Baby Boomer generation to listen to young Catholics
- Be a witness in society
- Better communication of what the Church does
- Better homilies
- Better implementation of Royal Commission recommendations
- Better training and support for youth leaders
- Call to repentance for clergy sexual abuse
- Care for neighbour
- Care for the environment
- Care for the family
- Defend right-to-life issues
- End clericalism
- End discrimination of LGBTQ
- Establish more youth programs
- Fight for human rights issues
- Focus on the new evangelisation
- Greater access to Mass and Reconciliation
- Greater concern for victims and survivors
- Greater connection with and inclusion of Indigenous Australians
- Greater emphasis on prayer and sacraments
- Greater focus on Jesus Christ
- Greater focus on the Word of God
- Greater leadership from bishops
- Greater leadership from priests
- Greater recognition of Eastern Catholic Churches
- Greater trust, faith and hope in God
- Heal and move beyond the clergy sexual abuse scandal
- Healing liturgies and public signs or acts of reparation for clergy sexual abuse
- Inclusion of the divorced and remarried
- Listen to one another more
- Mass to be appealing to youth and children
- More transparency and accountability regarding clergy sexual abuse
- More welcoming parishes
- New translation of the Mass (inclusive language)
- Outreach to all the baptised
- Outreach to the wider community
- Outreach to youth
- Reduce margins between rich and poor
- Restore the Third Rite of Reconciliation
- Special care of rural parishes
- Stronger parish communities
- Transparency in governance and decision making
- 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 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER. PLEASE REGISTER YOUR INTEREST ON THE BOOKING SHEET IN THE FOYER.**