



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

THEME 5: A JOYFUL, HOPE FILLED AND SERVANT COMMUNITY - 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 yearning for the Church to be a sign of God's kingdom for all people in Australia – to be able to see the Catholic Church in action, and to recognise Jesus. There was an expression of faith-filled hope in the capacity of the Catholic community to celebrate together, to show what it is to be a follower of Christ and to be loved unconditionally by God. There was a call to contemplate the Gospel call to be a servant Church for the good of all people in Australia – particularly for refugees and asylum-seekers and other people who are vulnerable or at risk. Many responses called for greater sharing of the story of the good works done by so many people and organisations of the Church. Some responses expressed a hunger for strong witness of faith, especially by priests, young people and female leaders in parish and school ministries.

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

- Acknowledge Christ's presence in the Eucharist
- Authentic faith teaching in Catholic schools
- Be a witness in society
- Better attention to all aspects of liturgy
- Better communication of what the Church does
- Better formation for liturgical ministries and sacramental programs
- Better homilies
- Better selection and formation of candidates to priesthood
- Better use of finances
- Care for neighbour
- Charismatic spirituality
- Church to act as a guide for Australian society
- Contemplative spirituality
- Creation of small communities/groups within parishes
- Cultural Masses
- Defend right-to-life issues
- End clericalism
- Faith formation for parents
- Greater access to Mass and Reconciliation
- Greater attention to music in the liturgy
- 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 leadership from priests
- Greater trust, faith and hope in God
- Hierarchy to listen to the Laity
- Keep the faith
- Laity supporting priests
- Listen to one another more
- Listen to the Holy Spirit
- Mass to be appealing to youth and children
- More welcoming parishes
- 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
- Pray the Rosary
- Putting Gospel values in action
- Renewed call to holiness
- Share the faith with others
- Stronger parish communities
- Work together in unity
- Youth to be involved more in Church community

WHAT WILL YOU DISCERN FROM THIS THEME?

YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GLENELG CATHOLIC PARISH PLENARY COUNCIL 2020 FORUM ON 1ST DECEMBER. REGISTER YOUR INTEREST WITH THE PARISH OFFICE.