



**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 6: OPEN TO CONVERSION, RENEWAL AND REFORM – SNAPSHOT REPORT, NATIONAL THEMES FOR DISCERNMENT**

This National Theme for Discernment is inspired by the voices of the People of God who expressed a desire to do things differently in response to Christ and the experience of our people, accepting that faithfulness to tradition requires change that is both personal and communal. Respondents also affirmed the important role of the clergy, expressing their appreciation for their vocation and recognising the need for support and ongoing formation and accompaniment. Some asked for a consideration of alternative approaches to ordained ministry, some for a greater inclusion of laity and different groups in the Church's life, some for new models of governance and leadership, and some for a renewed fidelity to the Church's teachings. There was also a call for a renewed life of prayer and communion with one another, including understanding the many different ways in which we encounter God and experience a conversion of heart.

**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.

- Better communication of what the Church does
- Better formation for liturgical ministries and sacramental programs
- Better implementation of Royal Commission recommendations
- Better Plenary Council process
- Better selection and formation of candidates to priesthood
- Better teachers in Catholic schools
- Better use of finances
- Charismatic spirituality
- Communion for all
- Concerns for diminishing parish communities
- Contemplative spirituality
- Creation of small communities/groups within parishes
- Diocesan Pastoral Council
- End celibacy, allow priests to be married
- End clericalism
- End discrimination of LGBTQ
- Fight for human rights issues
- Focus on the new evangelisation
- 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 bishops
- Greater leadership from priests
- 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
- Hierarchy to listen to the Laity
- Inclusion of the divorced and remarried
- Laity supporting priests
- Lay-led parishes
- Lay-led liturgies and Masses
- Listen to one another more
- Listen to the Holy Spirit
- Mass to be appealing to youth and children
- Modernise Church teachings
- New leadership and governance model
- New model of Church, diocese, parish
- New translation of the Mass (inclusive language)
- Ordaining married men to be priests
- Ordination of women
- Overseas priests
- Parish pastoral council
- Parishes involved in planning for the future
- Radical change, a new order, inverted pyramid
- Reduce margins between rich and poor
- Renewed call to holiness
- Restore the Third Rite of Reconciliation
- Servant leadership
- 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

**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.**