



Your Voice creates the Plenary Council 2020 Agenda!

Adelaide will host the opening session of the historic Plenary Council in October 2020 with a follow-up session in an eastern state in early 2021. That might seem far away, but now is the time for Catholics like you to help shape the process by taking part in a Listening and Dialogue session.

The last Plenary Council was held in Australia 80 years ago in 1937.

So what is it exactly? A Plenary Council is the highest formal gathering of all local churches and is an opportunity for the bishops and other representatives of dioceses and eparchies to discern what God is asking of us in Australia at this time. It has the authority to make church laws based on the results of this discernment.

This brochure describes the process of the Listening and Dialogue process and how to feed into the national picture.

We encourage you to consider hosting a conversation with those in your local community and have your voice heard.

Thank you for contributing to the Plenary Council Listening and Dialogue process. Your online submission will help to develop the agenda for the Plenary Council in 2020.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION



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- Plenary Councils website: <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au>
- Local Archdiocese of Adelaide contact: Sarah Moffatt smoffatt@adelaide.catholic.org.au



Plenary Council 2020
Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

**PRAY
TOGETHER**

**READ QUESTION
AND REFLECT**

**SHARE AND
LISTEN**

**PRAY AND
RESPOND**

**STEP
01 Pray
Together**

You are invited to pray together.

You might like to read scripture, you can use the words written below or just speak to God from your heart.

*Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost.
Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land.*

*O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia
and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council.*

*Give us the grace to see your face in one another
and to recognise Jesus, our companion on the road.*

*Give us the courage to tell our stories
and to speak boldly of your truth.*

*Give us ears to listen humbly to each other
and a discerning heart to hear what you are saying.*

*Lead your Church into a hope-filled future,
that we may live the joy of the Gospel.*

*Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
bread for the journey from age to age.*

Amen.

*Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.
St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.*

STEP
02

Read Question
and Reflect

What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?

- Reflect on the question in silence.
 - Write a list of all the responses to this question that come to mind.
 - Share aloud with each other all of the responses you have written down.
 - Working together, choose one topic from your responses to focus on for Step 3.

 - Our first topic for our listening and dialogue encounter is:
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STEP
03

Share
and Listen

You can repeat Step 3 for each topic on your list of responses over time. You may want to get together again in future weeks and months in order to continue to talk with one another using these steps.

REFLECT What have I experienced in this area?

In silence, reflect on your personal experience of faith, life and the Church **related to the topic area you have chosen** to dialogue about. You may want to write your thoughts down, or simply sit quietly with your thoughts.

SHARE AND LISTEN Tell a story of my experience in this area.

Take turns to share aloud with each other your personal experience of faith, life and the Church. When others are speaking, remember to listen with an open and humble heart.

REFLECT How has another perspective influenced my own?

After each person has shared, in silence, reflect on how stories shared by other people have influenced your own perspective. You may want to write your thoughts down, or simply sit quietly with your thoughts.

SHARE How has another perspective influenced my own?

Show that you have listened deeply and openly to each other. Some phrases you may find helpful are: 'I feel your sharing has helped me to...' or 'From what you have shared with me, I now understand...'

**STEP
04**

**Pray and
Respond**

PRAY At the end of your first dialogue and listening encounter, you are invited to pray together. You can use the words below, or you might like to say a prayer of gratitude in your own words.

Creator God, we thank you for the encounter with one another today.

We know that where two or three are gathered, you are in our midst.

Thank you for being with us and for the courage to speak boldly and with passion, and the humility to listen with open hearts.

We ask you to continue to walk with us, as we discover the pathway toward the future you are calling us to.

Amen.

RESPOND Your voice is important to shaping the future of the Church.

On the Plenary Council webpage you will find a SUBMISSION link. This will become your submission to the Plenary Council. From Pentecost (May 20, 2018) you will be able to submit your written response directly to the Plenary Council team online at plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

Have Your Say, SUBMIT ONLINE

The three questions for your submission are:

1. What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?
2. What questions do you have about the future of the Church for the Plenary Council to consider in 2020?
3. Do you have a story of your experience of faith, or the Church you would like to share?

Yes, I would like the Plenary Council team to contact me about sharing more details of my story. My contact details are:

NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

MOBILE: _____