

Plenary2020 Update:

Australia moves into the second phase of Plenary Council preparation *Six national themes for discernment announced*

Discernment on the national themes will be key to informing and shaping the agenda for the Plenary Council meetings in 2020 and 2021. These themes have been drawn from the data gathered from 17,457 submissions (taken from over 220,000 people across the country). The six national themes for discernment seek to address how God is calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is:

- Missionary and evangelising
- Inclusive, participatory and synodal
- Prayerful and Eucharistic
- Humble, healing and merciful
- A joyful, hope-filled and servant community
- Open to conversion and renewal.

National Theme for Discernment #1 – How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is Missionary and Evangelising? This National Theme for Discernment is inspired by the voices of the People of God who shared a passion for participating in the missionary nature of the Church and desire stronger support, involvement and formation among all the baptised who make up the Church.

National Theme for Discernment #2 – How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is Inclusive, Participatory and Synodal? 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.

National Theme for Discernment #3 – How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is Prayerful and Eucharistic? This National Theme for Discernment is inspired by the voices of the People of God who shared how deeply they treasured the Eucharist and the sacramental and liturgical life of the Church.

National Theme for Discernment #4 – How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is Humble, Healing and Merciful? This 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.

National Theme for Discernment #5 – How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is A Joyful, Hope-Filled and Servant Community? 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.

National Theme for Discernment #6 – How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is Open to conversion, Renewal and Reform? 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.

To find out more on these themes, go to at www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au