

# Support Kit

## for Selecting your Local Animator



### General Information & Submission Form

Plenary Council Working Group

E: [plenarycouncil@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:plenarycouncil@bbcatholic.org.au)

W: [www.bbcatholic.org.au](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au)



## INTRODUCTION

# ***“Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches” (Rev 2:7)***

### **Why Plenary Council 2020 Matters**

The Plenary Council to be held in 2020 represents an extraordinary and unique opportunity to discover and discern, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the future course for the Church in Australia. It is time to ask “What do you think God is asking of us in Australia?”

The Plenary Council opens up opportunity for all of God’s people to name those issues that are important to our faith, and to share perspectives and practices that God can use to touch ordinary lives. As a gift of the Holy Spirit, the Plenary Council has the potential to open up new horizons within ourselves and our Catholic communities, to discern ways to live our faith anew in contemporary Australian society. It will decide and legislate on matters that will shape and impact upon generations of Australian Catholics to come.

### **Why do we need Local Animators?**

In anticipation of the Plenary Council to be held in Australia in 2020, Bishop Comensoli invites the people of the Diocese of Broken Bay to set out on a

journey of listening, dialogue and prayer, to discern how the Catholic community can best live the life and mission of Jesus in contemporary Australian society.

The Diocese of Broken Bay will enter into this process of discernment beginning with a year dedicated to listening in 2018, followed by discernment throughout 2019, and the sharing of proposals to the Plenary Council in 2020.

The fruit of our listening and dialogue about the future of the Australian Catholic community will not only inform our intended Diocesan submission to the Plenary Council in 2020. It will





also provide each of us in the Diocese of Broken Bay - including our Bishop, parish and school communities, agencies, families, and individuals – with perspectives and insights to shape our local mission of evangelisation and outreach.

To support the sharing of faith and hopes by and for our Catholic community, Bishop Comensoli invites each parish, school and agency of the Diocese to discern and appoint ‘**Local Animators**’ to assist him to hear and gather the views of our people.

Specifically, the Bishop invites each

church community in every parish, every Catholic primary and secondary school, each CatholicCare centre and ministry, and religious institute, ecclesial movement and youth network to discern a Local Animator in their midst.

## What role will the Local Animator play?

This Local Animator – in close liaison with their Parish Priest, principal or community leader – will be responsible for coordinating and encouraging listening sessions in their local community on the future of our Church, on what God is asking of us in Australia.

These listening sessions are to take place between **August and October 2018** in a form that best suits each local community or group.

## The Local Animator will:

- Distribute Plenary Council guides for local listening sessions;
- Lead and encourage others to lead such local sessions using these guides;
- Register listening sessions taking place within your community so that Bishop Peter might also visit and hear the faith of your people;
- Encourage all participants to share the feedback of their dialogue with their local Parish Pastoral Councils, school staff and teams, community leaders and social support centres for their local discernment and action, and also upload these responses to the national Plenary Council website at [www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au)
- Share new information about Plenary Council 2020 as it comes to hand and serve as the primary liaison with the diocesan Plenary Council Working Group throughout 2018.

Hence the role of the Local Animator is to ‘animate’ listening sessions in their community. However, they need not facilitate all local conversations and can invite others to help in leading groups of conversation within the community.

The Local Animator will be provided with training and support, resources and practical ideas to lead and coordinate these listening sessions in their community. This training will be made available on both the **3 & 4 August 2018** by our Office for Evangelisation and the National Facilitation Team for the Plenary Council.

## Who should we choose as our Local Animator?

Your Local Animator should be chosen following prayerful discernment in your community and with the agreement of the person selected.

We invite the selection of **one Local Animator per community** in a parish (e.g. for Toukley Parish, one from St Mary’s, Noraville, and one from St Brendan’s at Lake Munmorah), a Local Animator from each Catholic primary and secondary school, CatholicCare centre, religious institute, ecclesial movement, and youth network.





Below are some **helpful criteria** which your local community can use to discern your Local Animator:

- A prayerful and joyful Catholic who trusts in the Holy Spirit at work in the community of faith;
- A collaborator, connected to the community, who is open and committed to supporting local conversations about the future of the Church and its mission;
- A good listener who can encourage others and believes in the value of shared discernment, that is, the importance of all voices;
- The ability to coordinate and promote listening sessions between August and October in your community in close collaboration with the Parish Priest, principal or local leader;
- The ability to encourage participants to share this feedback with their local Parish Pastoral Councils, school staff and teams, community leaders and social support centres for local discernment, and upload their responses to the national Plenary process via [www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au)
- The willingness to undergo training for this role in August, to gather in October with other Local Animators in your region (e.g. Central Coast, North Shore and Northern Beaches), and attend one of the diocesan assemblies on 24 November or 1 December, 2018.

Ideally, your Local Animator should be someone who has led a pastoral ministry or is active in community engagement in one form or another.

## How should we choose our Local Animator?

The process for selecting your Local Animator can itself be an opportunity for 'synodality', of 'walking together' as a local community, in prayerful discernment and decision. Consultation can take place with your Parish Pastoral Council, parish or school staff, or with colleagues to consider potential candidates, again with the suggested criteria in view.

Your Parish Priest, principal or local leader is encouraged to share information about Plenary Council 2020 and the involvement of our Broken Bay communities in this process of listening, using the general information provided in this kit (see opposite page) and the videos and promotional materials online at <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>. They might then call for expressions of interest for the role of Local Animator from within the community, highlighting the suggested criteria.

## What do we do next?

Once your Local Animator is selected, please invite them to identify themselves by filling out the submission form online at <http://bit.ly/2vk7GpR> by **Sunday 1 July 2018**.

Once you have selected your Local Animator, they should set aside 9:30am-3:30pm on Friday 3 August or Saturday 4 August, 2018, for one day of training that will be provided to them (the online submission form will invite your appointed Local Animator to select their preferred date).

When your Local Animator is identified, we will send them all the relevant information they need. Please note that all the information in this support kit is also available from the Broken Bay Diocesan website for convenience: [www.bbcatholic.org.au](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au)



## INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION

### Plenary Council 2020

- A Plenary Council is the **highest form of communion** between the various local or particular churches of a nation. This gathering of all the dioceses of Australia represents a once-in-a-century opportunity to discover and discern, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the future course for the Church.
- It is time to ask **'What do you think God is asking of us in Australia?'** The announcement of the Plenary Council expresses a commitment to 'walk together' in faith to discern how God is calling us to better express and live the Gospel in our time. All people are invited to share their hearts and minds in this process of prayer and discernment.
- It invites us to listening, dialogue and prayer with all of God's people to determine how best to ensure the pastoral needs of the People of God are provided for.
- The calling of such a Council trusts in faith that it is by our **mutual listening to the Holy Spirit**, who guides the Church 'into all truth' (John 16:13), that we can exercise our Gospel mission most effectively as a community of faith.
- In 2020 and 2021 the bishops of Australia, along with other council delegates, including laity and religious, will convene to discuss and make decisions about the future of the Church, informed by their careful discernment of the work of the Holy Spirit in the minds and hearts of all the People of God. This is why our Bishop is calling forth **'Local Animators'** to assist him to hear and gather the sense of the faith of our people.
- Each church community in every parish, every Catholic primary and secondary school, each CatholicCare centre and ministry, and religious institute and ecclesial movement is invited to **enter into dialogue** on the future of the Catholic community between August and October 2018, appointing a Local Animator to coordinate such dialogue with the support of guides, resources and training that will be provided by the Office for Evangelisation and National Facilitation Team.
- Following a process of listening and discernment, **our Diocese will then prepare to make a submission** to the national Plenary Council process in Advent 2019 reflecting the views, experiences and suggestions of our people for the good of the Australian Church.
- The feedback from our listening and dialogue will also provide our Diocesan community – including our Bishop, parish and school communities, agencies, families, and individuals – with perspectives and insights to shape **our local mission** of evangelisation and outreach in faith.



## Important Dates to Note in 2018

- **20 May** – Pentecost and the national launch of the Plenary Council 2020 process. Release of Bishop Comensoli's **Pastoral Letter** on Plenary Council 2020 to the people of Broken Bay and outline of our diocesan journey.
- **1 July** – Submission date for Local Animators from each church community in every parish, every Catholic primary and secondary school, each CatholicCare centre and ministry, youth network, religious institute and ecclesial movement of the Diocese.
- **3 & 4 August** – One day training sessions for Local Animators, provided by the Office for Evangelisation and the national Facilitation Team. Local Animators will receive guides and resources to facilitate local listening sessions in parishes, schools and agencies at this time.
- **August to October** – Local listening sessions to commence in parish communities, schools, agencies, and centres of ministry and religious life, coordinated by Local Animators. Bishop Comensoli to visit local communities.
- **October** – Regional dialogues on the Central Coast, North Shore and Northern Beaches with our Local Animators, amongst others.
- **24 November & 1 December** – Diocesan assemblies at The Cathedral Parish and The Entrance Parish respectively, for listening, prayer, and contributions toward the national Plenary Council 2020, informed by our local dialogue.

## THE YEAR AHEAD

# 2018

### A YEAR OF LISTENING

#### LAUNCH AT PENTECOST 20 MAY

#### LOCAL ANIMATORS BY 1 JULY

#### TRAINING OF LOCAL ANIMATORS 3 & 4 AUGUST

#### LOCAL LISTENING IN COMMUNITIES FROM AUGUST

#### REGIONAL FORUMS OCTOBER

#### DIOCESAN ASSEMBLIES 24 NOVEMBER & 1 DECEMBER

# 2019

### A YEAR OF DISCERNING

# 2020

### A YEAR OF PROPOSING

## About the Plenary Council Working Group

- The Plenary Council Working Group brings together people with particular expertise related to the holding of a Plenary Council and to practically assist in implementing processes of listening and dialogue in the Diocese on behalf of the Bishop.
- Members include:  
**Daniel Ang** (Director, Office for Evangelisation),  
**Pina Bernard** (Team Leader, Catholic Life & Faith Formation),  
**Fr Shiju Simon OSH** (Parish of Ku-ring-gai Chase),  
**Gail Gill** (The Parish of Chatswood),  
**Anthony Maher** (Catholic Schools Office),  
**Trish Devlin** (CatholicCare Broken Bay).
- For more information or support, please contact the following members and support team. We are eager to support your participation and involvement in any way we can.

### **Parishes, Religious Orders, Movements, Migrant Communities (Pina Bernard)**

Email: [pina.bernard@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:pina.bernard@bbcatholic.org.au)

Phone: 8379 1627

### **Catholic Schools (Anthony Maher)**

Email: [anthony.maher1@dbb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:anthony.maher1@dbb.catholic.edu.au)

Phone: 9847 0306

### **CatholicCare (Trish Devlin)**

Email: [trish.devlin@catholiccaredbb.org.au](mailto:trish.devlin@catholiccaredbb.org.au)

Phone: 9481 2602

### **Youth Leaders (Kelly Paget)**

Email: [kelly.paget@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:kelly.paget@bbcatholic.org.au)

Phone: 8379 1633





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