Student Plenary Assembly Guide



How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred church that is:

INCLUSIVE,

PARTICIPATORY

AND SYNODAL

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INCLUSIVE, PARTICIPATORY AND SYNODAL

People spoke about many different topics in Phase 1: Listening & Dialogue. A comprehensive report on all the voices of the participants is available at: <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/reports/#snapshotreports>

TOPICS: WHAT DID PEOPLE TALK ABOUT?

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

Baby Boomer generation to listen to young Catholics • Better communication of what the Church does • Better teachers in Catholic schools • Care for neighbour • Care for the environment • Care for the family • Church should adapt to multicultural reality • Communion for all • Defend right-to-life issues • End celibacy, allow priests to be married • End discrimination of LGBTQ • Establish more youth programs • Fight for human rights issues • Greater connection with and inclusion of Indigenous Australians • Greater focus on Jesus Christ • Greater focus on the Word of God • Greater inclusion of all people • Greater role for women • Greater trust, faith and hope in God • Inclusion of the divorced and remarried • Listen to one another more • Mass to be appealing to youth and children • Modernise Church teachings • More chaplains, youth ministers in Catholic schools • More transparency and accountability regarding clergy sexual abuse • More welcoming parishes • Ordaining married men to be priests • Ordination of women • Outreach to the wider community • Outreach to youth • Putting Gospel values in action • Servant leadership • Support same-sex marriage • Transparency in governance and decision making • Use social media to engage people • Work together in unity • Youth to be involved more in Church community

*\*please note this is a section of the topics raised during the Listening and Dialogue phase that engaged over 220,000 people across Australia. For more information on the report and topics please visit:* <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/reports/#snapshotreports>

In the words of Pope Francis, “synodal” means:

*“…a Church which listens, which realises that listening ‘is more than simply hearing’. It is a mutual listening in which everyone has something to learn. The faithful people, the college of bishops, the Bishop of Rome: all listening to each other, and all listening to the Holy Spirit, the ‘Spirit of truth’, in order to know what [the Spirit] ‘says to the Churches”*.*[[1]](#footnote-1)*

WHEN THINKING ABOUT A CHRIST-CENTRED CHURCH:

What does “inclusive” look like, sound like and feel like to you?

What does “participatory” look like, sound like and feel like to you?



1. This quote was taken from “Plenary Council Participation and Reception: Synodality and Discerning the *Sensus Fidelium*” by Ormond Rush. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)