



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

Reflection Guide for responding to the

Thematic Discernment Papers



Welcome

The last six months of our Plenary Council Journey has required many unplanned changes because of the impact of COVID-19. What hasn't changed is the heart of the journey – the discernment process.

We are mindful of all those who have made a significant contribution to the Plenary Council journey so far through the responses submitted during the time of listening, dialogue, and discernment; as well as the work of the members of the Six Discernment and Writing Groups.

This Reflection Guide for responding to the Thematic Discernment Papers is an invitation, another opportunity, to engage in the discernment process and to listen deeply to the voice of the Spirit and to one another.

We Gather

Sit comfortably in a circle, or if on-line, focus your attention through the device you are using...and let the silence deepen.



We Acknowledge Country and Pray

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the traditional custodians from the land on which we gather, and pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging. We give thanks for their care of this land over thousands of years.

Plenary Council Prayer

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.

You may choose to listen to and reflect on one of the scripture readings from the Listening and Discernment process:

- Luke 10: 1-12
- Galatians 3: 23-29
- John 15: 1-17
- Matthew 9:9-13
- Luke 10: 21-37
- John 8:2-11

We Participate in Contemplative Dialogue

3

- Each question is taken separately.
- Each person is given the opportunity to speak without comment from others.
- Each one contributes her/his own insight while being attentive to the emergence of shared wisdom in the dialogue.
- The dialogue stops when there seems to be a natural ending, about an hour and a half.
- This guide may be used in responding to one or more of the Thematic Discernment Papers at a time.



We are Mindful

4

You are invited to share briefly the impact of COVID-19 on your life.

We Share

From your prayerful reflection on the Thematic Discernment Papers (1-6) and in the light of the impact of COVID-19 on your life:

Q1. What resonates with you?

Each person shares without comment from others.

Everyone listens to each other.

Then in silence and listening for the Spirit, consider:

“What did you hear from the group sharing and what feelings has it prompted in you?”

Then each person shares their response before the group moves on to the next question.

Q2. What challenges you?

Each person shares without comment from others.

Everyone listens to each other.

Then in silence and listening for the Spirit, consider:

“What did you hear from the group sharing and what feelings has it prompted in you?”

Then each person shares their response before the group moves on to the next question.

Q3. What is the invitation to you personally and for your local Church community?

Each person shares without comment from others.

Everyone listens to each other.

Then in silence and listening for the Spirit, consider:

“What did you hear from the group sharing and what feelings has it prompted in you?”

We form our Response

- The leader invites each person to share how she/he experienced the session.
- The leader invites each person to name the shared wisdom of the group.
- If the group wishes, after your session you can send your responses through the Plenary Council website (<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>) to the Plenary Council Facilitation Team. These responses will inform and guide the ongoing discernment process for all those involved in the Plenary Council journey.



Thank you sincerely for continuing to engage in the Plenary Council process as we listen deeply to the voice of the Spirit and to one another.

