The Listening and Dialogue phase of the Plenary Council has now concluded and we move into a period of Listening and Discernment. During this time, we continue to seek the wisdom of the Holy Spirit as we discern how we can best respond to the six National Discernment Themes.

As we now enter into the crucial phase of Listening and Discernment, and as we begin to engage with the National Themes for Discernment ... may we be open to the wisdom of the Holy Spirit who will lead us into the fullness of the Truth (cf. Jn 16:13) and eager for that gift of humility which will equip us for the opportunities, the challenges and the joys, which now lay ahead of us.

+Archbishop Tim Costelloe SDB
President
Plenary Council 2020

To discern means first of all to listen to God, to pay attention to God's active presence, and to obey God's prompting, direction, leadings, and guidance.

—Henri J. Nouwen, 
Discernment: Reading the Signs of Daily Life, p. 5
The six National Themes for Discernment

How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is Missionary and evangelising?

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem … and to the ends of the earth.

—Acts 1:8

How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is inclusive, participatory and synodal?

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

—Acts 4:32–33

How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is prayerful and Eucharistic?

When they were at table, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened and they recognised him.


How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is humble, healing and merciful?

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

—Luke 1:78–79

How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is a joyful, hope-filled servant community?

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Each day they met together in the Temple; they broke bread in their homes; they shared their food with great joy and sincerity of heart; they praised God and won the favour of all the people.

—Acts 2:42–46
How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is open to conversion, renewal and reform?

After John the Baptist had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee and began preaching the Good News of God. He said, ‘The time has come; the Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe the Good News.’

—Mark 1:14–15

Process suggestions

- Parishes or communities may wish to choose to focus on one theme for a month at a time.
- As a focus for the theme, the relevant Scripture passage could be published in the bulletin throughout the month.
- In addition to specific Listening and Discernment opportunities, all groups who meet during the month could be invited either undertake the Listening and Discernment process, or to spend some time at the commencement of the meeting reflecting on the theme through the lens of the relevant Scripture passage.
- Pray the same Plenary prayer of the faithful for the entire month.
- At the weekend Masses, sing one of the suggested hymns for the month.

General prayer of intercession

This prayer could be used throughout the Listening and Discernment period as part of your parish’s prayers of the faithful:

For the work of the Plenary Council:
That as we listen and discern our hearts will be open to responding to the work of the Spirit amongst us and in the Church in Australia.
Lord, hear us.
Continuing the journey to the Plenary Council

The Listening and dialogue phase of the Plenary Council has now concluded and we move into a period of listening and discernment. During this time, we continue to seek the wisdom of the Holy Spirit as we discern how we can best respond to the six National Discernment Themes.

Introductory Bulletin Note

Ensure that a short notice about the Plenary Council is included in your bulletin or newsletter as a reminder about where we are with the process. For example:

Continuing the journey to the Plenary Council
The Plenary Council 2020 is a gathering of the Church in Australia to make decisions for the future. Six National Themes for Discernment have been drawn from the 220,000 people that were engaged in the Listening and Dialogue sessions. How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is:

- missionary and evangelising?
- inclusive, participatory and synodal?
- prayerful and eucharistic?
- humble, healing and merciful?
- a joyful, hope-filled servant community?
- open to conversion, renewal and reform?

Each of the themes has a ‘snapshot’ report which provides a sample of the voices and answers that inspired the theme. Snapshot reports are available at https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/reports/.


Or you could use Fr Kevin Lenehan’s presentation on communal discernment, which will be available from Monday 12 August on the local Melbourne Plenary website: https://www.cam.org.au/plenary.

In addition, a final report on Phase 1 has been produced and can be accessed at https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/reports/.

All people are now invited to continue the journey towards the Plenary Council by engaging in a time of Listening and Discernment.
Theme: Missionary and evangelising

Bulletin notice/newsletter suggestions

Week 1
As we move into this second phase of the Plenary Council journey we are invited to reflect on Scripture, Church teaching and our contemporary situation to discern what it is that God is asking of us through the lens of the National Themes.

During the month of […] our parish/community will be praying and reflecting about the first National Theme for Discernment: How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is missionary and evangelising? This is one of the six National Themes for Listening and Discernment that is preparing the Australian Church for the Plenary Council.

A parish/community Listening and Discernment experience will be held on [date] / at [venue] / from [start time] / [Provide other relevant details.]

Week 2
During the month of […] our parish/community will be praying and reflecting about the first National Theme for Discernment: How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is missionary and evangelising? This is one of the six National Themes for Listening and Discernment that is preparing the Australian Church for the Plenary Council.

A parish/community Listening and Discernment experience will be held on [date] / at [venue] / from [start time] / [Provide other relevant details.]

This experience will take between two and two and a half hours, and at the conclusion we will be invited to provide a response to the Writing and Discernment Group Leader for this theme.

To prepare for this session, you may wish to reflect on the following Scripture passage:

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem … and to the ends of the earth.

—Acts 1:8

In addition, the ‘snapshot’ report for this theme can be found at https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/reports/.

Print copies of the Let’s Listen and Discern document, outlining the process, are available at the back of the church or at www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au.

Week 3
During the month of […] our parish/community will be praying and reflecting about the first National Theme for Discernment: How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is missionary and evangelising? This is one of the six National Themes for Listening and Discernment that is preparing the Australian Church for the Plenary Council.
A parish/community Listening and Discernment experience will be held on [date] / at [venue] / from [start time] / [Provide other relevant details.]

Some of the topics that people raised during the Listening and Dialogue phase included:

- affordable adult faith formation courses
- authentic faith teaching in Catholic schools
- be a witness in society
- Church to act as a guide for Australian society
- concerns for diminishing parish communities
- listen to one another more
- listen to the Holy Spirit
- more chaplains, youth ministers in Catholic schools
- more formation for priests.

Week 4

During the month of […] our parish/community will be praying and reflecting about the first National Theme for Discernment: **How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is missionary and evangelising?** This is one of the six National Themes for Listening and Discernment that is preparing the Australian Church for the Plenary Council.

A parish/community Listening and Discernment experience will be held on [date] / at [venue] / from [start time] / [Provide other relevant details.]

This theme arose as a result of communal listening and dialogue, with people sharing their hopes and dreams about the mission of the Church. We are now invited to deepen our discernment as we pray, reflect and listen to what the Spirit is calling us to in Australia.

**Prayers of the Faithful**

That the work toward the Plenary Council will open the hearts of the faithful to hear what it is to which God is calling us in the Australian church:

Let us pray to the Lord.

That our hearts will be open to the work of the Spirit in our lives and our world as we listen and discern how God is calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is missionary and evangelising:

Let us pray to the Lord.

**Hymn suggestions**

- A new commandment—CWB 615, CWBII 443, GA 318
- Here I am, Lord—AOV1 90, CWBII 518, G 777, GA 496
- Lord, you give the great commission—CWBII 308, G 544, GA 313
- Send down the fire—AOV2 164, CWBII 389, GA 475, G 557
- Take Christ to the world—GA 369
- The Voice of God—CWB 835, CWBII 621, GA 476
- We are called—AOV2 60, CWBII 476, G 807, GA 514
Theme: Inclusive, participatory and synodal

Bulletin notice/newsletter suggestions

Week 1
As we move into this second phase of the Plenary Council journey we are invited to reflect on Scripture, Church teaching and our contemporary situation to discern what it is that God is asking of us.

During the month of […] our parish/community will be praying and reflecting about the National Theme for Discernment: **How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is inclusive, participatory and synodal?** This is one of the six National Themes for Listening and Discernment that is preparing the Australian Church for the Plenary Council.

A parish/community Listening and Discernment experience will be held on [date] / at [venue] / from [start time] / [Provide other relevant details.]

Week 2
During the month of […] our parish/community will be praying and reflecting about the National Theme for Discernment: **How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is inclusive, participatory and synodal?** This is one of the six National Themes for Listening and Discernment that is preparing the Australian Church for the Plenary Council.

A parish/community Listening and Discernment experience will be held on [date] / at [venue] / from [start time] / [Provide other relevant details.]

This experience will take between two and two and a half hours and at the conclusion we will be invited to provide a response to the Writing and Discernment Group leader for this theme.

To prepare for this session, you may wish to reflect upon the following Scripture passage:

> Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

—Acts 4:32-33

In addition, the ‘snapshot’ report for this theme can be found at [https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/reports/](https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/reports/).

Print copies of the *Let’s Listen and Discern* document, outlining the process, are available at the back of the church or at [www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au).

Week 3
During the month of […] our parish/community will be praying and reflecting about the National Theme for Discernment: **How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is inclusive, participatory and synodal?** This is one of the six National Themes for Listening and Discernment that is preparing the Australian Church for the Plenary Council.
A parish/community Listening and Discernment experience will be held on [date] / at [venue] / from [start time] / [Provide other relevant details.]

Some of the topics people raised during the Listening and Dialogue phase included:

- Affordable adult faith formation courses
- Baby Boomer generation to listen to young Catholics
- Become a Vatican II church
- Better communication of what the Church does
- Better implementation of Royal Commission Recommendations
- Better interface between parish and school.

**Week 4**

During the month of […] our parish/community will be praying and reflecting about the National Theme for Discernment: *How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is inclusive, participatory and synodal?* This is one of the six National Themes for Listening and Discernment that is preparing the Australian Church for the Plenary Council.

A parish/community Listening and Discernment experience will be held on [date] / at [venue] / from [start time] / [Provide other relevant details.]

This theme arose as a result of communal listening and dialogue with people sharing their hopes and dreams about how we can ensure that Christ is at the centre of all we do as a Church. We are now invited to deepen our discernment as we pray, reflect and listen to what the Spirit is calling us to in Australia.

**Prayers of the Faithful**

That the work toward the Plenary Council will open the hearts of the faithful to hear what it is to which God is calling us in the Australian church:

Let us pray to the Lord.

That our hearts will be open to the work of the Spirit in our lives and our world as we listen and discern how God is calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is inclusive, participatory and synodal:

Let us pray to the Lord.

**Hymn suggestions**

- A new commandment—CWB 615, CWBII 443, GA 318
- All are welcome—CWBII 535, G 850
- City of God—AOV1 57, CWBII 453, G 766, GA 498
- Come as you are—AOV1 31
- Gather us in—AOV1 12, CWBII 501, G 848, GA 526
Theme: Prayerful and Eucharistic

Bulletin notice/newsletter suggestions

**Week 1**
As we move into this second phase of the Plenary Council journey we are invited to reflect on Scripture, Church teaching and our contemporary situation to discern what it is that God is asking of us.

During the month of […] our parish/community will be praying and reflecting about the National Theme for Discernment: **How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is prayerful and Eucharistic?** This is one of the six National Themes for Listening and Discernment that is preparing the Australian Church for the Plenary Council.

A parish/community Listening and Discernment experience will be held on [date] / at [venue] / from [start time] / [Provide other relevant details.]

**Week 2**
During the month of […] our parish/community will be praying and reflecting about the National Theme for Discernment: **How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is prayerful and Eucharistic?** This is one of the six National Themes for Listening and Discernment that is preparing the Australian Church for the Plenary Council.

A parish/community Listening and Discernment experience will be held on [date] / at [venue] / from [start time] / [Provide other relevant details.]

This experience will take between two and two and a half hours and at the conclusion we will be invited to provide a response to the Writing and Discernment Group leader for this theme.

To prepare for this session, you may wish to reflect upon the following Scripture passage:

> When they were at table, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened and they recognised him.

—Luke 24:30-31

In addition, the ‘snapshot’ report for this theme can be found at https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/reports/.

Print copies of the *Let’s Listen and Discern* document, outlining the process, are available at the back of the church or at www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au.

**Week 3**
As we move into this second phase of the Plenary Council journey we are invited to reflect on Scripture, Church teaching and our contemporary situation to discern what it is that God is asking of us.

During the month of […] our parish/community will be praying and reflecting about the National Theme for Discernment: **How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is prayerful**
and Eucharistic? This is one of the six National Themes for Listening and Discernment that is preparing the Australian Church for the Plenary Council.

A parish/community Listening and Discernment experience will be held on [date] / at [venue] / from [start time] / [Provide other relevant details.]

Some of the topics people raised during the Listening and Dialogue phase included:

- Acknowledge Christ’s presence in the Eucharist
- Affordable adult faith formation courses
- Better attention to all aspects of liturgy
- Better formation for liturgical ministries and sacramental programs
- Renewed call to holiness.

Week 4

During the month of […] our parish/community will be praying and reflecting about the National Theme for Discernment: **How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is prayerful and Eucharistic?** This is one of the six National Themes for Listening and Discernment that is preparing the Australian Church for the Plenary Council.

A parish/community Listening and Discernment experience will be held on [date] / at [venue] / from [start time] / [Provide other relevant details.]

This theme arose as the result of communal listening and dialogue with people sharing their hopes and dreams about a prayerful and Eucharistic church. We are now invited to deepen our discernment as we pray, reflect and listen to what the Spirit is calling us to in Australia.

**Prayer of the Faithful**

That our hearts will be open to the work of the Spirit in our lives and our world as we listen and discern how God is calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is prayerful and Eucharistic:

Let us pray to the Lord.

**Hymn suggestions**

- Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!—CWBI 449, G 949, GA 371
- City of God—AOV1 57, CWBI 453, G 766, GA 498
- Come to the feast—AOV1 151, G 585, GA 400
- Eat this bread (Taizé)—AOV1 125, CWBI 484, G 941, GA 205
- Gift of finest wheat/You satisfy the hungry heart—CWB 685, CWBII 651, G 940, GA 191
- I am the bread of life (Toolan)—AOV1 49, CWB 718, CWBII 508, G 945, GA 204
- Seek, O seek the Lord—CWB 802, CWBII 595, GA 211
Theme: Humble, healing and merciful

Bulletin notice suggestions

Week 1
As we move into this second phase of the Plenary Council journey we are invited to reflect on Scripture, Church teaching and our contemporary situation to discern what it is that God is asking of us.

During the month of […] our parish/community will be praying and reflecting about the National Theme for Discernment: **How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is humble, healing and merciful?** This is one of the six National Themes for Listening and Discernment that is preparing the Australian Church for the Plenary Council.

A parish/community Listening and Discernment experience will be held on [date] / at [venue] / from [start time] / [Provide other relevant details.]

Week 2
During the month of […] our parish/community will be praying and reflecting about the National Theme for Discernment: **How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is humble, healing and merciful?** This is one of the six National Themes for Listening and Discernment that is preparing the Australian Church for the Plenary Council.

A parish/community Listening and Discernment experience will be held on [date] / at [venue] / from [start time] / [Provide other relevant details.]

This experience will be between two and two and a half hours and at the conclusion we will be invited to provide a response to the Writing and Discernment Group Leader for this theme.

To prepare for this session, you may wish to reflect upon the following Scripture passage:

> By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

—Luke 1:78-79

In addition, the ‘snapshot’ report for this theme can be found at https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/reports/.

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Week 3
During the month of […] our parish/community will be praying and reflecting about the National Theme for Discernment: **How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is humble, healing and merciful?** This is one of the six National Themes for Listening and Discernment that is preparing the Australian Church for the Plenary Council.
This is one of the six National Themes for Listening and Discernment that is preparing the Australian Church for the Plenary Council.

A parish/community Listening and Discernment experience will be held on [date] / at [venue] / from [start time] / [Provide other relevant details.]

Some of the topics people raised during the Listening and Dialogue phase included:

- Care for the environment
- Care for the family
- Greater access to Mass and Reconciliation
- Greater focus on the Word of God
- Reduce margins between rich and poor.

**Week 4**

During the month of […] our parish/community will be praying and reflecting about the National Theme for Discernment: **How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is humble, healing and merciful?** This is one of the six National Themes for Listening and Discernment that is preparing the Australian Church for the Plenary Council.

A parish/community Listening and Discernment experience will be held on [date] / at [venue] / from [start time] / [Provide other relevant details.]

This theme arose as the result of communal listening and dialogue with people sharing their hopes and dreams about how the Church can be humbler and merciful. We are now invited to deepen our discernment as we pray, reflect and listen to what the Spirit is calling us to in Australia.

**Prayers of the Faithful**

That the work toward the Plenary Council will open the hearts of the faithful to hear what it is to which God is calling us in the Australian church:

Let us pray to the Lord

That our hearts will be open to the work of the Spirit in our lives and our world as we listen and discern how God is calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is humble, healing and merciful:

Let us pray to the Lord.

**Hymn suggestions**

- A trusting psalm—AOV1 115, CWBII 293, GA 455
- Come to me, all you who labour—CWBII 470
- Come to the feast—AOV1 151, G 585, GA 400
- God of mercy and compassion—CWB 692, CWBII 290, GA 302
- Return to God—CWBII 298, G 478, GA 304
- The cry of the poor—AOV1 83, CWBII 618, G 47, GA 36
- The voice of God—CWB 835, CWBII 621, GA 476
Theme: Joyful, hope-filled servant community

Bulletin notice/newsletter suggestions

Week 1
As we move into this second phase of the Plenary Council journey we are invited to reflect on Scripture, Church teaching and our contemporary situation to discern what it is that God is asking of us through the lend of the National Themes for Listening and Discernment.

During the month of […] our parish/community will be praying and reflecting about the National theme for Discernment: This month we are inviting parishioners to participate in a Listening & Discernment experience to respond to the question: **How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is a joyful, hope-filled servant community?** This is one of the six National Themes for Listening and Discernment that is preparing the Australian Church for the Plenary Council.

A parish/community Listening and Discernment experience will be held on [date] / at [venue] / from [start time] / [Provide other relevant details.]

Week 2
During the month of […] our parish/community will be praying and reflecting about the National theme for Discernment: This month we are inviting parishioners to participate in a Listening & Discernment experience to respond to the question: **How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is a joyful, hope-filled servant community?** This is one of the six National Themes for Listening and Discernment that is preparing the Australian Church for the Plenary Council.

A parish/community Listening and Discernment experience will be held on [date] / at [venue] / from [start time] / [Provide other relevant details.]

This experience will take between two and two and a half hours and at the conclusion we will be invited to provide a response to the Writing and Discernment Group Leader for this theme.

To prepare for this session, you may wish to reflect upon the following Scripture passage:

> They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Each day they met together in the Temple; they broke bread in their homes; they shared their food with great joy and sincerity of heart; they praised God and won the favour of all the people.

—Acts 2:42-46

In addition, the ‘snapshot’ report for this theme can be found at [https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/reports/](https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/reports/).

Print copies of the *Let’s Listen and Discern* document, outlining the process, are available at the back of the church or at [www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au).
Week 3
During the month of […] our parish/community will be praying and reflecting about the National theme for Discernment: This month we are inviting parishioners to participate in a Listening & Discernment experience to respond to the question: **How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is a joyful, hope-filled servant community?** This is one of the six National Themes for Listening and Discernment that is preparing the Australian Church for the Plenary Council.

A parish/community Listening and Discernment experience will be held on [date] / at [venue] / from [start time] / [Provide other relevant details.]

Some of the topics people raised during the Listening and Dialogue phase for this theme included:

- Greater trust, faith and hope in God
- Hierarchy to listen to the Laity
- Laity supporting priests
- Listen to one another more
- Mass to be appealing to youth and children
- More welcoming parishes

Week 4
During the month of […] our parish/community will be praying and reflecting about the National theme for Discernment: This month we are inviting parishioners to participate in a Listening & Discernment experience to respond to the question: **How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is a joyful, hope-filled servant community?** This is one of the six National Themes for Listening and Discernment that is preparing the Australian Church for the Plenary Council.

A parish/community Listening and Discernment experience will be held on [date] / at [venue] / from [start time] / [Provide other relevant details.]

This theme arose as the result of communal listening and dialogue with people sharing their hopes and dreams about how the Church can be humbler and merciful. We are now invited to deepen our discernment as we pray, reflect and listen to what the Spirit is calling us to in Australia.

**Prayers of the Faithful**

That the work toward the Plenary Council will open the hearts of the faithful to hear what it is to which God is calling us in the Australian church:
Let us pray to the Lord

That our hearts will be open to the work of the Spirit in our lives and our world as we listen and discern how God is calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is a joyful, hope-filled servant community:
Let us pray to the Lord.
Theme: Open to conversation, renewal and reform

Week 1
As we move into this second phase of the Plenary Council journey we are invited to reflect on Scripture, Church teaching and our contemporary situation to discern what it is that God is asking of us through the lens of the National themes.

During the month of […] our parish/community will be praying and reflecting about the National Theme for Discernment: How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is open to conversion renewal and reform? This is one of the six National Themes for Listening and Discernment that is preparing the Australian Church for the Plenary Council.

A parish/community Listening and Discernment experience will be held on [date] / at [venue] / from [start time] / [Provide other relevant details.]

Week 2
During the month of […] our parish/community will be praying and reflecting about the National Theme for Discernment: How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is open to conversion renewal and reform? This is one of the six National Themes for Listening and Discernment that is preparing the Australian Church for the Plenary Council.

A parish/community Listening and Discernment experience will be held on [date] / at [venue] / from [start time] / [Provide other relevant details.]

This experience will take between two and two and a half hours and at the conclusion we will be invited to provide a response to the Writing and Discernment Group Leader for this theme.

To prepare for this session you may wish to reflect on the following Scripture passage:

After John the Baptist had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee and began preaching the Good News of God. He said, “the time has come; the Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe the Good News.”

—Mark 1: 14-15

In addition, the ‘snapshot’ report for this theme can be found at https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/reports/.

Print copies of the Let’s Listen and Discern document, outlining the process, are available at the back of the church or at www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au.
Week 3
During the month of [...] our parish/community will be praying and reflecting about the National Theme for Discernment: **How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is open to conversion renewal and reform?** This is one of the six National Themes for Listening and Discernment that is preparing the Australian Church for the Plenary Council.

A parish/community Listening and Discernment experience will be held on [date] / at [venue] / from [start time] / [Provide other relevant details.]

Some of the topics people raised during the Listening and Dialogue phase included:

- Better communication about what the Church does
- Better formation for liturgical ministries and sacramental programs
- Concerns for diminishing parish communities
- Greater trust, faith and hope in God
- Listen to one another more.

Week 4
During the month of [...] our parish/community will be praying and reflecting about the National Theme for Discernment: **How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is open to conversion renewal and reform?** This is one of the six National Themes for Listening and Discernment that is preparing the Australian Church for the Plenary Council.

A parish/community Listening and Discernment experience will be held on [date] / at [venue] / from [start time] / [Provide other relevant details.]

This theme arose as a result of communal listening and dialogue with people sharing their hopes and dreams about the mission of the Church. We are now invited to deepen our discernment as we pray, reflect and listen to what the Spirit is calling us to in Australia.

**Prayers of the Faithful**

That the work toward the Plenary Council will open the hearts of the faithful to hear what it is to which God is calling us in the Australian church:

Let us pray to the Lord

That our hearts will be open to the work of the Spirit in our lives and our world as we listen and discern how God is calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is open to conversion renewal and reform:

Let us pray to the Lord.

**Hymn suggestions**

- Open my eyes—AOV1 166, CWBII 582, G 651
- A Trusting Psalm—AOV1 115, CWBII 293, GA 455