

# *Listening & Dialogue*

Giving Voice to the Future



Diocesan Inservice, Toowoomba  
26 September, 2018



Catholic Diocese of  
**TOOWOOMBA**



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I encourage everyone to speak up and to also listen with an open mind and humble heart to what others have to say. In this Plenary Listening and Dialogue process it is important to make the unique voice of the Toowoomba Diocese heard, not just today at this event, but throughout the whole process. Take your enthusiasm back to your communities and inspire others to be involved in the dialogue. May we hear what the Spirit is saying for our Local Church and beyond.

Bishop Robert McGuckin's message to all who attend this Diocesan Inservice.

**"No matter where you might find yourself in relation to the Church – deeply involved, only partially engaged, uncertain or disillusioned, on the margins, or a friendly or critical outsider looking in – we need to hear from you for we are sure that God speaks to us all: and the Church needs to listen to everyone,"**

Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB (Archdiocese of Perth) @ the launch of the Plenary Listening & Dialogue Process, 2018

## TIMETABLE

<b>From 8:30am</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Welcome, Opening and Prayer</b>
<b>9:20am</b>	<b>Introduction to the Journey toward the Plenary Council</b> Lana will give an introduction to the Plenary Council. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions. A handful of parishes have been invited to share their experience of the Listening and Dialogue process in their community so far
<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Morning Tea</b>
<b>10.50am</b>	<b>Listening to God by Listening to one another: An Encounter</b> Experiencing the Listening and Dialogue Encounter (in groups of 4). There will be time come together as a group to share feedback.
<b>12.45pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>1.30pm</b>	<b>Workshop – Planning for the Leading/Local Activity</b> Where to from here? Group brainstorming session.
<b>2.15pm</b>	<b>Final Questions</b>
<b>2.35pm</b>	<b>Closing Prayer</b>

### Our Keynote Speaker and Facilitator for the day is Lana Turvey-Collins



Lana was appointed in November 2017 by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference to the position of Facilitator for the 2020 Plenary Council

Lana has a wealth of experience in senior leadership, strategic planning, facilitation and stakeholder engagement. She was seconded from Catholic Mission, where she had been leading the mission formation team and adult formation program.

## OPENING PRAYER:

**Leader:** Sign of the Cross

In the beginning there was nothing but God,  
and from that nothingness rose the miracle of universal life.

*A bible is placed in prayer space and flower petals are sprinkled into the water bowl.*

In our beginnings, as we enter this time of listening and sharing,  
let us be reminded that God lies in the empty spaces,  
bringing light out of darkness and spreading life beyond where we have been  
and what we have known.

*The candle is lit.*

**L:** The hand of God encircles us:

**All:** **God of our beginnings, hold us firm.**

**L:** The feet of Christ walk before us:

**All:** **God of our journey, show us the path.**

**L:** The wings of the Spirit lift us up:

**All:** **God who is our companion, guide us on our way.**

**Hymn:** *Listen*

**Reading:** Eph 1: 17-19

**R:** A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,  
may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him,  
so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened,  
you may know what is the hope to which he has called you,  
what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints,  
and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according  
to the working of his great power in the Spirit.

The Word of the Lord

**All:** **Thanks be to God**

*Take a moment to reflect on the word or phrase that spoke to you.*

**Intercessions:**

**Response:** *Lord Hear Our Prayer.*

**Lord's Prayer:**

**L:** Let us pray together the prayer Our Savior taught us.

*Our Father, who art in heaven....*

**Hymn:** *Christ Be Our Light*

**Plenary 2020 Prayer to Close**

## CLOSING PRAYER:

**L:** Let us enter a time of prayer and reflection on this day we have shared.  
*The green glass vase will break in transit  
so smash it now;  
either you will try to carry your memento, and it will crack,  
or you will refuse to leave it behind and never travel;  
broken is the only way to carry the vase,  
each piece a doll's house saucer of light,  
each a palm open to the room where you pack to leave.*  
*Beat the light into crystals so that you are free to move  
and when you travel, fold them in a cloth.*  
*At your destination,  
don't try to reassemble the vase; its old form has gone,  
but in the workshop at the lough-side, tip out the crushed pieces  
and fuse them into something new.*

Words by Maria Bennett, from: 'The Heavenly Habit' by Daniel O'Leary



**L:** God who is our Creator,  
we ask you to go on creating new things in us.  
Take all that we are and add to us your creative Spirit,  
that we may help the buds of new life blossom in our faith communities.  
This we ask through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

**Hymn:** *Listen*

**L:** Let us go in peace into the tasks and relationships which lie ahead.  
Let us go in faith because we never travel alone;  
God is with us and we are with each other.

And may God bless us on our journey,  
In the name of the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen

## LISTENING AND DIALOGUE ENCOUNTER



### Step 1 *Pray Together*

You are invited to pray together.

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.



## Step 2 Read Question and Reflect

### What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?

- Reflect on the question in silence.
- In silence, write a list of all the things that come to mind.
- Share aloud your lists of topics with one another.
- Working together, choose one topic to focus on for the next stage.

Our first topic for our dialogue and listening encounter is:

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## Step 3 Share and Listen

- **REFLECT – What have I experienced in this area?**  
In silence, reflect on your personal experience of faith, life and church **related to the topic area you have chosen** to dialogue about. You may want to write your thoughts down, or simply sit quietly with your thoughts.
- **SHARE AND LISTEN – Tell a story of my experience in this area.**  
Take turns to share aloud with your partner your personal experience of faith, life or church. When the other person is speaking, remember to listen with an open and humble heart.
- **REFLECT – How has another perspective influenced my own?**  
After each person has shared, in silence, reflect on how the other person's sharing has influenced your own perspective. You may want to write your thoughts down, or simply sit quietly with your thoughts.
- **SHARE – How has another perspective influenced my own?**  
Show your partner(s) you have listened deeply and openly. Some phrases you may find helpful are: 'I feel your sharing has helped me to...' or 'From what you have shared with me, I now understand...'





## Step 4 Pray and Respond

**PRAY** – At the end of your dialogue and listening encounter, you are invited to pray together. You can use the words below, or you might like to say a prayer of gratitude in your own words.

Creator God, we thank you for the encounter with one another today.  
We know that where two or three are gathered, you are in our midst.  
Thank you for being with us and for the courage to speak boldly and with passion,  
and the humility to listen with open hearts.  
We ask you to continue to walk with us,  
as we discover the pathway toward the future you are calling us to.  
**Amen.**

**RESPOND** – Your voice is important to shaping the future of the Church.

Working together, please write your responses to the questions on the page provided. This will become your submission to the Plenary Council.





## DIALOGUE AND LISTENING ENCOUNTER – WRITTEN RESPONSE

Your written response will help to ‘listen to what the Spirit is saying’ as we develop the agenda for the Plenary Council. Thank you for sharing the story of your experiences of faith, life and church.

This response is from [Group Name]:

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Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Details [Optional]:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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### **1. What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?**

*Please write the important points from your listening and dialogue encounter below.*

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2. ***What questions emerge about the future of the Church in Australia from your listening and dialogue encounter that you would like the Plenary Council to consider?***

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3. ***Do you have a story of your experience of faith, life or the Church which you would like to share with us? If so, please provide details here...***

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☐ **Yes**, I would like the Plenary Council team to contact me about sharing more details of my story.

My contact details are, Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return your response to:**

Plenary Council Submission, PO Box 747, North Sydney NSW 2059

Or online at [www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/have-your-say/](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/have-your-say/)

## WORKSHOP – PLANNING FOR THE LEADING/LOCAL ACTIVITY

### Suggested Guidelines for preparing for the Listening and Dialogue process in your parish or community

- Visit the Plenary website and explore: [www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au)
- Read the Theology page (you will find this under the heading **About Us**)
- Read the FAQ page: (you will find this under the heading **About Us**)
- Watch the Plenary Council Videos (you will find this under the heading **Resources**)
- Subscribe to the Plenary Council e-newsletter – this option will pop up on the screen when you open the Plenary Council website
- **Suggestion for getting started - Find a team** – approach Parish secretary, Parish Pastoral Associate, Youth Leader/young couple, Parish Pastoral Council member(s), school Principal, School APRE, local aged care facility, members of other local community groups
- Hold a welcome and introductory gathering with refreshments
- Organise time and place for Listening and Dialogue Sessions

### When the Listening and Dialogue Sessions begin

- Allow about an hour for the session
- Any number of people can gather. If numbers are large, it is suggested that you work in groups of 4 or 5 people
- Participants will need a pen and some writing paper
- Some refreshments before or after the gathering may be helpful

### Local Contacts –

Toowoomba Diocese Plenary Coordinator: Mary Otto

[rcia@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:rcia@twb.catholic.org.au)

Mob:0447 074 807

Communications Office: Ingrid McTaggart

[communications@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:communications@twb.catholic.org.au)

Ph: 07 4632 4277





## NOTES