**Intercessions:**

**L:** As we begin this journey together,

let us share our hopes for the Plenary Council and for the communities we have come from.

R: For the Plenary Council: In our Listening and Dialogue, give us wisdom so that we may each profoundly answer the question, "What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?" Help us to put aside our own egos and issues to hear God's voice as we try to "listen to what the Spirit is saying".

Lord hear us. ***Lord Hear Our Prayer.***

R: Encourage and strengthen us when our dialogue gets messy and we cannot see where the Spirit is leading us. May we come to appreciate that this is often the way the Spirit works.

Lord hear us. ***Lord Hear Our Prayer.***

R: As we prepare for our Plenary Council, help us to reach out beyond ourselves to engage the voices of others: young people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the poor, the unemployed, the LGBT community, and those who are disillusioned or have been hurt by the Church.

Lord hear us. ***Lord Hear Our Prayer.***

R: We pray for the clergy and all the people of our Diocese, that we may all know and share in the power of Jesus at work among us today.

Lord hear us. ***Lord Hear Our Prayer.***

R: Open our eyes to see the loving face of God in places we have not looked before; may we become reflections of God’s love in the world around us.

Lord hear us. ***Lord Hear Our Prayer.***

**L:** Loving Father,

Take all that we bring, our gifts and talents,

our longings and our faith. Add them to your wisdom and power so that the life of your Church may be strengthened and renewed.

We ask this in the name of Jesus your Son.

**All: Amen**.