

'PENTECOST HOMILY OUTLINE BY PLENARY COUNCIL FACILITATION TEAM'
PENTECOST SUNDAY 20TH MAY 2018

Pentecost Greetings to each member of our community.

This weekend I'm away and Fr Joe McGeehan is our Celebrant.

Below are notes and prayers and links to resources for the 2020 Plenary Council, which are launched today.

They are prepared by the Facilitation Team of the Plenary Council.

I've only reformatted them to this style.

Over the coming weeks we will be invited to respond to this question:

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

May the Holy Spirit empower us to hear clearly what Jesus wants of us in Australia.

May God continue to bless and love each of you.

You are in my prayer.

Fr Gerry

*From the Facilitation Team: **Key Messages***

combining the celebration of Pentecost, the Year of Youth and the launch of the Listening and Dialogue Encounters as we prepare for the Plenary Council 2020.

At the time of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit enabled all people to understand one another.

The Holy Spirit transcended all languages, customs and cultures and the early communities of faith were able to listen to one another and hear the message of Jesus, of God's great love for the world.

Today, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we look toward the future and begin the process of preparing for the Plenary Council. We, too, will need to rely on the gifts of the Holy Spirit to speak boldly, and to listen humbly and with open hearts to one another and especially to God.

The Plenary Council gives us all an opportunity to listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Church in Australia. We are going to build the agenda for the Plenary Council together, through dialogue – we will practise talking with one another, even if we disagree. In the midst of dialogue, we can hear God's voice. Every one of us is invited to listen to God by listening to one another.

Alongside the preparation for the Plenary Council, this year we are celebrating the Year of Youth. Our young people are like those early Christians when the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost – anointed and sent, they have the energy and vibrancy of youth and we all are nourished by their witness and their faith.

The Plenary Council Listening and Dialogue Encounters and the Year of Youth are ways in which the Church in Australia can express the spirit of Pentecost today. We call upon the Holy Spirit to guide us, to help us hear God's voice as we ask

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

In coming weeks, as a parish community, we will gather together to listen to one another, to reflect on this question and share our own stories of faith, and our experiences of the Church. After we talk together, we will collate our stories and ideas and the questions we have about the future of the Church and give our submission online through the Plenary Council webpage.

From the Facilitation Team - Prayers for the Plenary Council 2020:

We pray for the Church in Australia as we prepare for the Plenary Council in 2020. May we listen to what the Spirit is saying as we share with one another our stories of faith. We pray for courage to speak boldly and for compassion to listen with open and humble hearts.

We pray for the Church in Australia as we prepare for the Plenary Council in 2020. May we listen to what the Spirit is saying as we share with one another our joys and hopes, and then speak humbly of what we have heard.

Pentecost Sunday Readings

First Reading Acts 2:1-11
Responsorial Psalm Ps 104: 1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34

Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Second Reading 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13
Gospel Jn 20:19-23

From the Facilitation Team - Question

Pope Francis has approved the Australian Bishops' decision to hold a Plenary Council in Australia in 2020 and 2021.

It is a significant moment for the Church in Australia to make decisions about the future.

To prepare the agenda for the Plenary Council, all of God's people are invited to reflect on the question:

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

Find out more about the Plenary Council 2020

at the new website, now online: www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

From the Facilitation Team - Resources

The Plenary Council Webpage

plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

Prayer Cards [artwork for printing]

Plenary Council Song

Listening and Dialogue Encounter

Listening and Dialogue Facilitation Guides

Plenary Council YouTube Channel

Promotional Video [75 secs]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=exNXH2YcB8Y>

Archbishop Timothy's Invitation [5:19secs]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRVY7_uYCM4

Introduction to the Plenary Council [9:20secs]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ejdk5ez3EcM>

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