

THE PLENARY COUNCIL & THE HOLY SPIRIT  
*HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY – 12 JUNE 2022*



*Holy Trinity Icon by Andrej Rublëv, 1425 – 1427 | public domain*

**THIS WEEKEND WE CELEBRATE**

This weekend we celebrate one of our two parish feasts – The Feast Day of St Anthony of Padua. Happy Feast Day.

We will also celebrate on the actual feast day of June 13th.

**50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION OF FATHER GARY WALKER SSC**

We celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Ordination of Father Gary Walker who has joined us today. Happy Golden Jubilee Gary.

This Trinity Sunday is a time of wonder, of love, of stillness in God.

**GOSPEL OF JOHN 16:12-15**

In today's Gospel, we come to understand God as Father, Jesus and Spirit.

***'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.  
When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth;  
for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears,  
and he will declare to you the things that are to come.  
He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you.  
All that the Father has is mine.  
For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.'***

From this Gospel, we draw on the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Truth.

**YEAR FIVE AND THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Last Friday, Year 5 gathered at 9am Mass to celebrate their study of the Holy Spirit. After the Acknowledgement of Country, some students presented posters about each of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Then another group of students came forward with their posters about the Fruit of the Holy Spirit.

During the homily, the fruit of the Holy Spirit were read out, and Year 5 were asked which fruit are clearly evident in their lives.

Each fruit was stated slowly, with students raising their hands to whichever fruit of the Holy Spirit they could see in their own individual lives.

Galatians 5:22-23

*'But the fruit of the Spirit is  
love, joy, peace,  
patience,  
kindness, goodness,  
faithfulness,  
gentleness and self-control.'*

When they conclude their unit on the Holy Spirit, each class will write a letter to the next group of parents who will be preparing their children for the Sacrament of Confirmation later this year.

#### NEXT MONTH'S PLENARY

Last weekend on Pentecost Sunday, we began to focus on change in the church.

We looked at some of the proposed changes for next month's national Plenary Council.

We read about

- parish councils listening to people on the peripheries,
- enhancing the role of women in the church,
- prayer life,
- the ministries of lector, acolyte and catechist,
- lay preaching
- the three forms of Rite of Penance and
- establishing a Laudato Si' Action Plan

Last week's homily is available at: <https://bit.ly/Homily05062022>

Today we read the motions in

*Part 2. Choosing Repentance – Seeking Healing*

*Part 3. Called by Christ – Sent Forth as Missionary Disciples.*

As we read each motion and a small part of the introductions, we ask ourselves which fruit of the Holy Spirit we see.

The full document is at: <https://bit.ly/FrameworkForMotionsLink>

Our Parish Council will discuss the document on Monday evening.

*Part 2. Choosing Repentance – Seeking Healing*

In the introduction to Part 2, the Plenary Council says:

*“As the Plenary Council of the Church in Australia, we express our profound sorrow that children and young people and vulnerable adults have been abused by clergy, religious and lay workers of the Catholic Church, and that religious leaders have failed to act sufficiently to prevent abuse.*

*To the survivors of abuse and their families we offer our unreserved apology. We commit to doing whatever we can to promote healing for those so gravely harmed and to make the Church a truly safe place for everyone.”*

The proposed motions are:

**“Motion:** *That the Plenary Council adopt the above introductory statement of Part 2; whereby the Plenary Council*

*a. says sorry to the survivors of abuse and their families;*

*b. commits the Church to continue to respond with justice and compassion to survivors of abuse and their families;*

*c. reaffirms the commitment of the Church in Australia to the work of implementing and improving safeguarding standards and practices; and*

*d. invites all Catholics to commit to ensuring that Church environments are safe and respectful.”*

**“Motion:** *That, in consultation with those who have been harmed by abuse, consideration be given to a new name for the annual “Safeguarding Sunday”, so as to better express the aims of this day, which are currently “to acknowledge the immense damage caused by the sexual abuse of children*

*and adults at risk ... makes a commitment to practices and protocols that create and maintain safe environments for all people [and] ... invites people to pray for those harmed by abuse directly and indirectly.”*

*Part 3. Called by Christ – Sent Forth as Missionary Disciples.*

In one of the introduction paragraphs to Part 3, we hear:

*The Church which “goes forth” is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice. Missionary discipleship is characterised by openness to encounter, hospitality and dialogue: with each other, other Christians, people of faith and no faith, and with the human family for the care of our common home.*

*Just as we were enlivened by “deep listening” during the Plenary Council Assemblies, we propose formation for all Catholics in the practice of listening, so that we might discover in other people a brother or sister to be supported and loved. Mission directs us to the peripheries of society.*

*It calls us to be in active solidarity with all those who experience disadvantage or exclusion, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people with disabilities, people on low incomes, refugees and asylum-seekers, people experiencing mental ill-health and with the exploited earth.*

*Especially important are those who hold a grievance against us (cf. Matthew 5:23), those who experience marginalisation by the Church and those who are victims of abuse, exclusion, intolerance, and lack of compassion and understanding.*

**“Motion:** That those responsible for Catholic schooling and early childhood education, led by the National Catholic Education Commission and drawing upon the document *A Framework for Formation for Mission in Catholic Education (2017)*, establish a national forum, which will seek to:

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**“Motion:** That those responsible for Catholic schooling and early childhood education, led by the National Catholic Education Commission and drawing upon the document *A Framework for Formation for Mission in Catholic Education (2017)*, establish a national forum, which will seek to:

- a. identify and respond to the needs of the diverse and distinct circumstances of Catholic schools in Australia;*
- b. build partnerships which enhance the vision of Catholic education as an instrument of evangelisation and an essential dimension of the contemporary mission of the Church;*
- c. offer a process for critical reflection and discernment of the vocation of Catholic education today;*
- d. support formation opportunities for leadership development and training in religious education.”*

**“Motion:** That the Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service establish a triennial National Forum of Catholic social service, health and aged care, disability, prison ministry, refugee and asylum-seeker, and justice, ecology and peace organisations; and that the purpose of this forum include: *a. providing opportunities for dialogue that will contribute to the ability of the Church in Australia to attend to “examining the signs of the times and interpreting them in the light of the Gospel”;*

- b. identifying and exploring priorities for evangelisation through outreach, service provision, advocacy and formation;*
- c. addressing gaps;*

- d. seeking opportunities for collaboration; and
- e. informing the development of local social teachings to be issued by the Australian Bishops.”

**“Motion:** *That each diocese identify ways of promoting ecumenical and interfaith relationships (e.g., an Ecumenical and Interfaith Officer) that are practical and appropriate for the diocese. That the Bishops Commission for Christian Unity and Inter-religious Dialogue – in collaboration with Catholic tertiary institutions and theological associations – provide guidance, advice and resources to dioceses for ecumenical and interfaith dialogue and relationships, and formation for those responsible for ecumenical and interreligious relations.”*

Let us pause and pray about these motions.

**[pause & pray]**

Thank you for the comments after each Mass last weekend about the Plenary items mentioned, and the interest to keep exploring the content of the Plenary Motions and introductions.

*During the week ahead, in our daily prayer,  
we ask which of the fruit of the Holy Spirit do we see in our own lives?  
‘love, joy, peace, patience,  
kindness, goodness, faithfulness,  
gentleness and self-control.*

Let us pray.

Father Gerry

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/061222.cfm>