



Diocese of Port Pirie Chancery

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To Parish Priests, Principals, Heads of Agencies and Chairs of Pastoral Councils

We are now entering a new phase in the Plenary Council process with the release of the final report of the Listening and Dialogue phase last Sunday. This report captures the voices of over 222,000 people who submitted responses. The Port Pirie Diocese made 38 individual and 20 group responses. The final report of the Listening and Dialogue phase can be found on the Plenary Council website at: <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/reports/>

We are now asked to look at what is emerging, to listen to these voices, to pray and to discern what we can do to move towards the type of Church in Australia that we all want to be a part of. Our role is to analyse the data and to be open to all ideas presented, not necessarily just what we may want personally.

Perth Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB, president of the Plenary Council said, "The great challenge ahead of us now is to "catch" the voice of the Holy Spirit within the passionate, hopeful but sometimes contradictory voices of God's people."

Change will happen as a result of your participation in this process. The Church will change to some extent, but you will change through your involvement in the prayer and discernment process. You are now asked to identify the people in your parish, school or agency who could form a group. It is recommended to have 10 – 12 people in each group. Ideally there may be several groups in some parishes. You will be sent copies of a pamphlet that has been developed to aid the discussion process. There are seven steps indicated as well as a possible time allocation. Also there are documents that give a snapshot of the ideas presented in the first phase. There are six pages for each of the six themes for discernment. These documents are available on the website at the link above. The recommended process takes an estimated 2 ½ hours. It is important to allocate sufficient time and to choose an appropriate time such as a weeknight or day, even a weekend time, that suits your people. It is recommended that each group decides on one theme to discern rather than try to do all six. At the end of the time you may wish to nominate someone to submit a summary of your discussion to the Plenary Council website. These submissions need to be limited to 150 words and be received any time before the middle of January 2020. We are hoping that each Regional Pastoral Council may choose a different theme and submit a response. Please contact Michael Preece once you have decided on your theme.

The Plenary Council will meet in Adelaide from 4 – 10 October 2020 with a follow up meeting in Sydney the following year.

Thank you for the good work you are doing in this most important aspect of church renewal. Please contact Michael Preece if you have any comments or questions via email at michael.preece@pp.catholic.org.au or by phone on 8632 0556.

Yours in Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory O'Kelly".

Bishop Gregory O'Kelly
Bishop of Port Pirie Diocese

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Preece".

Michael Preece
Bishop's Assistant for Pastoral Ministry