

STEP 04 Pray and Respond

5 mins

Pray

- At the end of your first Listening and Dialogue Encounter, you are invited to pray together.
- You can use the prayer 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.

Speak boldly and with passion, but also listen with an open and humble heart!

(Pope Francis)



Respond

After your Encounter Experience



- Your voice is important to shaping the future of the Church.
- **Submit your individual written responses directly to the Plenary Council team via the website:**

www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

You will be invited to respond to 3 questions:

1. What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?
2. What questions do you have about the future of the Church for the Plenary Council to consider in 2020?
3. Do you have a story of your experience of faith or the Church you would like to share?

Have Your Say, SUBMIT ONLINE

Closes: 6th March 2019

Plenary Council Team

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Download this brochure:

www.evangelisationbrisbane.org.au/parishes/plenary



Plenary Council 2020

Listen to what the Spirit is saying...



Listening & Dialogue Encounter Guide

ADULT/SMALL GROUPS

There is no set time that a Listening and Dialogue Encounter must take—this depends on each group and how they would like to experience the encounter.

As a guide, small groups may take approximately **60mins** to complete one experience.

Times provided are only a guide.

STEP 01 Pray Together

5 mins

You are invited to pray together.

If gathering as a large group, you may like to pray all together before breaking up into smaller groups. Otherwise, as a small group, come together to pray.



You may wish to

- Read a scripture passage
- Pray the Plenary Council Prayer together (below)
- Sit in silent prayer and reflection.

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 in 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.

STEP 02 Read Question and Reflect

20 mins

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

- Reflect on the above question in silence.
- Write a list of all the responses to this question that come to mind.
- Share aloud with each other all of the responses you have written down.
- Working together, choose one topic from your responses to focus on for step 3.

Our first topic for our Listening and Dialogue Encounter is:



STEP 03 Share and Listen

30 mins

You can repeat Step 3 for each topic on your list of responses over time. You may want to get together again in the future weeks and months in order to continue to talk with one another using these steps.

REFLECT

What have I experienced in this area?

- In silence, reflect on your personal experience of faith, life and the 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 experiences in this area

- Take turns to share aloud with each other your personal experiences of faith, life and the Church.
- When others are 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 stories shared by others have 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 that you have listened deeply and openly to each other.
- Some phrases you may find helpful are: 'I feel your sharing has helped me to...' or 'From what you shared with me, I now understand...'