

**Summary Report of National Theme 1
(Group Listening and Discernment Session 28-08-19)
Focus: How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is
Missionary and Evangelising?**

The session began by listening to a passage of Scripture from Matthew 10: 5-15. The passage relates a time Jesus sent out twelve (disciples) to visit neighbouring towns and villages. One phrase drew our attention, “but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel,” and reminded us to first evangelise those close to us – families, friends and our community. Jesus’ instruction to the twelve was simple, “Proclaim the Good News and lavish compassion on those in need.”

Another phrase which drew attention was, “find out who in it (the village) is worthy, and stay there.” Our special house – our church – needs to be worthy where people can feel at peace and wish to stay.

During the resulting discussions several topics were raised:

Sharing ideas and good practice by networking with neighbouring parishes – Reinstating Arias Angels as a resource for young children and young parents – Alpha courses – Promotion of Bible Study courses – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – Use Pope Francis’ Laudato Si writings to engage young families through our common regard for environment/creation – More Adult Faith Education opportunities – Encourage more women to take up leadership roles in the Church – Create religious vocation opportunities for young people by enabling them to become trained and paid catechists on a full time, part time basis for from two to five years.

Eventually two significant themes emerged.

The first theme emerged from the words of Pope Francis, “I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ.” A renewal of a personal relationship with Jesus leads to a new realization of the missionary nature of the Church.

The second theme stemmed from our need to better know and understand our faith.

The Alpha Program was decided as a way to satisfy both themes – an opportunity to encounter Jesus and an opportunity to extend our faith knowledge.

The group’s response to how is God calling us to be missionary and evangelising (and the submission to the Plenary Council) calls for the Catholic Church to actively promote Alpha and similar programs.

It was also suggested that at our local parish level it would be good to offer programs such as the Life in Spirit seminars.

The theme for September is:

**How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is Humble,
Healing and Merciful?**

Please refer over for a snapshot of the responses that prompted this theme. There is also an invitation to the next Listening and Discernment session. More information is on the notice board at the rear of the church.

How God is calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is



Some of the topics that people talked about this theme:

- Be a witness in society
- Better communication of what the Church does
- Better implementation of Royal Commission report
- Call to repentance for clergy sexual abuse
- Care for neighbour, the environment, the family
- Defend right-to-life issues
- End discrimination of LGBTQ
- Fight for human rights issues
- Greater connection with and inclusion of Indigenous Australians

Read more of the topics for this theme:
www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

Listening & Discernment Experience

You are invited

Our Parish will be conducting a Listening & Discernment Experience for this theme on:

Wednesday 18th September at 6.45pm
St Rita's Church

Please take time to read the Snapshot Report before attending. These can be located at:
www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

How God is calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is



How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is Humble, Healing and Merciful?

This National Theme for Discernment is inspired by the voices of the People of God who expressed a deep and faith-filled trust in God and a need for lament and healing within the Church, acknowledging the sexual abuse crisis as a turning point for the Church in Australia. It identified the need for relationship and reconciliation among many within the Catholic community, and with the wider Australian society, particularly with Australia's First Peoples and with all of creation. A desire was expressed for stronger prayer and sacramental life and more effective outreach to those who seek healing, as a renewed openness to and sign of God's mercy. Read more about this theme at:

How God is calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is

