

Tips for Getting Started with Plenary 2020



1. Engage Leadership and other Key members

- In parishes, make sure the parish priest is aware and supportive.
- Involve the Parish Pastoral Council or equivalent body and any Parish Staff/Team members
- Deanery Pastoral Council members are asked to be key representatives.

2. Form a Team

- The stronger the team, the stronger your engagement
- Members may include:
 - Deanery Pastoral Council Members
 - A Parish team member
 - A couple of Pastoral Council members
 - Key networkers and animators in your community
- Consider inviting an existing team such as Stewardship, Planning or Renewal to take this on

Whoever steps on, take time to immerse in Plenary 2020 and hold your own session.

The team then has four main tasks. If sufficient members, divide roles into these areas:

3. Pray

- Engage the community in prayer for hearts and minds aligned to the Holy Spirit, open to the signs of the times, and for the building up of our church
- Prayer of the faithful
- Praying the Plenary prayer at meetings and/or Mass
- Prayer groups in community to hold up Plenary as an intention
- Distribute prayer cards

4. Inform

- Ensure everyone knows Plenary is happening!
- Bulletin notices and homily points (over a series of weeks)
- Website and other communication channels
- Inform the various ministries and groups (using letter and info sheet)
- Place the pull up banner in prominent space – add cards and tri-fold flyers
- Distribute tri-fold flyers and encourage them to share with others
- Put up posters and outdoor banner
- Play the videos
- Host an information session
- Individuals and groups may prefer to download the *Listening and Dialogue Encounter* resource from the national plenary website.



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5. Offer Small Group Sessions

1. Identify key reps in community – ministry group leaders and/or groups; and others who have a spirit of hospitality and friendliness. Open same process to school parents
2. Explain the role of the small group booklets in a session
3. Each of these people to find two to three others – family, friends (little cards may help invite)
4. Have a sign up Sunday where others can join group
5. Groups don't all have to start at same time or go for same length
6. Ensure the group leaders are supported
7. If your parish is considering renewal or feedback, incorporate session 5 and ask Pastoral Planning Office for support
8. Insert little sheet for Session 5 with your own Pathways
9. Encourage people to bring journals and pens to sessions

6. Outreach (starting ideas)

1. "Share a Cuppa & Your Thoughts" Session
 - a. Slogan: We are Catholic. We are Listening. Share your advice on how we can work with our local community better.
 - b. Flyers: Share with family, friends, colleagues
 - c. Facebook link: Share with family, friends, colleagues (maybe with survey version)
 - e. At event, ensure there is hospitality, break into small groups, have trained facilitators, include a short introduction and video message about the Plenary. Record feedback on butcher paper or on screen. Finish the evening with a thank you and possible follow up activities.
 - f. The Pastoral Planning Office is able to provide support if required.
2. Town Hall Forum
 - a. Approach your local council and ask for a listening forum along the above lines
 - b. You may also consider library or other neutral location for a meeting
3. Interfaith and/or ecumenical forum

Gather with other local faith communities and invite their feedback
4. Promote to non-worshipping Catholics

Sample ad for newspaper or school bulletin
Catholic? Don't Come to Sunday Worship? We want to hear from you
5. Parent Forums via schools

SRE catechists to include information in letter to students' parents (Ensure you have permission from the school principal or delegate before you do this)



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6. Visit Aged Care Homes and Speak to Catholics who no longer make Mass due to illness, etc.
 7. Hold Forum to Workshop with Parishioners ways they can hold a session at home with family, or in their social circle
 8. Piggy Back Existing Parish Events
 - a. Sacramental preparation parents of younger children
 - b. RCIA participants
 - c. Baptism Parents
 - d. Marriage Preparation Couples
 9. Consider Newspaper Ad, Bulletin Board at Shopping Centre/Library, On-line bulletin boards, on-line Facebook group for local area, banner outside church, letter box drops; radio
7. Don't Rush – Breathe – Keep the Spirit of Plenary!
- Each community will move at its own pace
 - Better to do something small well rather than rush through half-baked ideas!
 - Scatter the seed and trust in the Holy Spirit

CONTACT PASTORAL PLANNING OFFICE FOR SUPPORT!

Phone ☎ 8838 3461 or ✉ pastoralplanning@parracatholic.org



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