

# Plenary 2020 Information Sheet #3



On behalf of the Diocese of Parramatta we would like to say a big thank you to each and everyone for your participation and support with the Plenary 2020 submissions. Ash Wednesday marked the close of the Listening and Dialogue stage. There were 1,038 identified submissions from the Diocese of Parramatta. We understand that there were also a large number of submissions made anonymously.

On a national level the total number of submissions was 17,457 which represented over 222,000 individuals. A summary of submissions will be released soon and a media release is available at:

🌐 <http://tinyurl.com/y2p7oajq> You may also find helpful the following short videos from the National Plenary website:

- An explanation of how the submissions are processed now that they have been received  
🌐 <http://tinyurl.com/y6c89p8d>
- A message of thanks from the National Plenary Committee 🌐 <http://tinyurl.com/y3a7ffal>

## What are the next stages of the National Plenary process?

Pentecost marks the launch of the next stage of preparation which is entitled Listening and Discernment. Also at Pentecost the themes for national discernment will be announced. In June, applications and selection of Working Group Chairs and members will take place. There will be one working group per theme, and each group will develop Council papers for discussion at the first session of the Plenary Council. In July the first meeting of the Working Groups and local small group discernment will begin. Nominations of the lay delegates of the Plenary Council 2020 will take place in September and then in October the National Centre for Pastoral Research will publish Diocesan qualitative reports.

In April 2020 at Easter time the draft Plenary 2020 Council papers discerned by the Working Groups become available for download and discussion. During 4 to 11 October 2020 the first session of the Plenary Council 2020 will be held in Adelaide and in May 2021 the second session of the Plenary Council will be held in Sydney.

## What is our diocese doing in response to the Plenary submissions?

Besides the national progress of the Plenary, our diocese is considering what is possible to pursue locally at this time. While there are many and varied Plenary topics, Bishop Vincent Long is inviting us to consider the three broad topics of Community, Outreach, and Leadership & Ministry. These topics will be further considered at the upcoming Diocesan Forum on 13 July. Representatives and communities from across our diocese will have the opportunity to give their input and engage in this way forward. In particular, we will be asking for feedback from the Plenary Listening and Dialogue sessions which took place as well as any learnings and achievements from our Faith in our Future Diocesan Pastoral Plan.

Again we thank you for your time, enthusiasm and willingness to speak about your experiences within the Church and the energy that you have invested in this first stage of the process. As Lana Turvey-Collins says "Listening has been a critical part of this opening phase and as we move into the Listening and Discernment phase, it is necessary that we all continue to listen to God and listen to each other to allow the Council to be a pivotal moment in the life of the Catholic Church in Australia".

For further information please contact Tanya or Richard at the Pastoral Planning Office via  
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With grateful thanks,

**Richard McMahon and Tanya Quinn | Diocesan Plenary Facilitators**