



## Plenary Council 2020

Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

The Catholic Church in Australia will be holding a Plenary Council over two sessions, the first in 2020 and the second in 2021. The Council website, <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/> explains that a Plenary Council is ‘the highest formal gathering of all local churches in a country’. Plenary Council 2020, the website states, ‘is being held so that we can dialogue about the future of the Catholic Church in Australia’.

There are a number of ways that one can participate in the Plenary Council process. We are encouraged to listen and dialogue, for example in small groups, and to have our say in shaping the program for the Plenary Council by making a submission. Submissions can be made online (via the Council website) by individuals or by groups such as parish groups. The Council will receive online submissions until 6 March 2019, and encourages submitters to consider and address 3 matters:

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. Please share a story of your experiences of your faith or the Church to give context to your responses to Q1 & Q2.

As a parish, we have so far participated through praying as a congregation for the Council, and at Mass watching a Youtube video of Council President Archbishop Timothy Costelloe explaining what the Council’s all about. Also, late last year there were two information sessions about the Council (held on 12 November and 8 December);

Continued -

a summary of the discussions by attendees appeared in the Parish Bulletin on 22/23 December. The Parish would like to continue facilitating parishioner participation in the Plenary Council.

One way is to set up small listening and dialogue groups that discuss ‘What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?’. If you are interested in joining such a group, please put your name and contact details either on the form in the foyer, or on the form below and detach it and give it to the Parish Office by Tuesday, 5 February 2019. Please indicate if you are willing to act as a facilitator for the group.

If you would prefer to provide individual comments to the Parish on the matters listed above, you can send an email to the Parish Office at [watson@cg.org.au](mailto:watson@cg.org.au) by Friday, 22 February 2019, or contact the Office on 6248 5925 by Tuesday, 12 February 2019, for help in providing comments. The Parish will collate comments it receives in this way in putting together a Parish submission. (Of course, you can submit your comments directly to the Plenary Council via their website.)

Submissions to the Plenary Council are not the end of the process. The Archdiocese draws on Pope Francis’s *The Joy of the Gospel* to promote leadership and mission in the Catholic Church. This exhortation calls for renewal in the Church. At the local level, we can use the listening and dialogue of the Plenary Council process as a catalyst for renewing our Parish. There are lots of ways of being a part of this, for example joining one of the Parish groups such as St Vincent de Paul, the Parish Pastoral Council or Parish School of Religion; further information on these groups and on parish renewal will be provided in future bulletins. And there are faith formation and training programs such as CaFE (Catholic Faith Exploration), Alpha (which introduces people to an initial proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ) and lector ministry training (see over).

Parish financial support may be available to meet the cost of undertaking such programs.

So please take the opportunity to get involved in whatever way you can, and to have your say in the future of our Church.

# Plenary Council 2020 participation

Please tick the box below

I am interested in joining a Plenary Council listening and dialogue group.	
I am willing to facilitate the listening and dialogue session(s) of a group.	

If you have ticked yes to either of the above, please include your contact details below.

Name	Phone number	Email address

To return the above form please put it in the box in the sacristy or put your name on the list in the foyer. Thank you.



## SPEAKING AWESOME WORDS

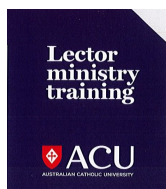
### Lector Ministry Training

Lectors (readers) bring the living Word of God to the Mass. Proclaiming God’s Word well requires specialised training, careful preparation and practice.

This two hour interactive training session focuses on techniques for effective proclamation.

This session will include relevant aspects of Theology, scripture, history, liturgy and spirituality.

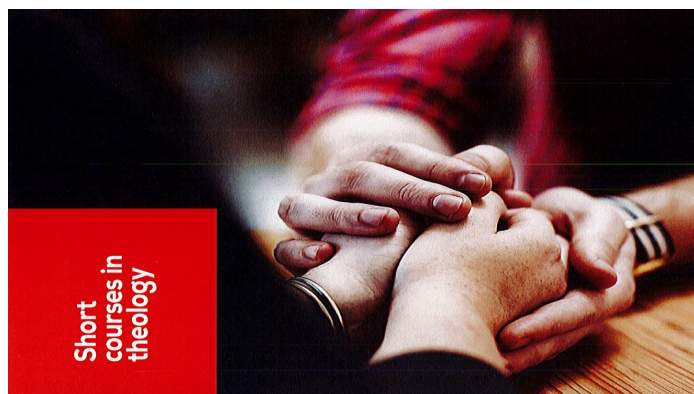
This training will benefit both experienced and beginning lectors, and includes time for practice and feedback.



If you are interested in attending this course please call 6248 5925 or email [watson@cg.org.au](mailto:watson@cg.org.au)  
Numbers are required to book a session for Holy Rosary Church.

## WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF LITURGY

Liturgy is the customary public worship performed by a religious group, according to its beliefs, customs and traditions. As a religious phenomenon, liturgy is a communal response to and participation in, the sacred through activity reflecting praise, thanksgiving, supplication or repentance.



## SHORT COURSES IN THEOLOGY

### Living the Gospel

Learn with leading scholars and experts - Dr Edmund Chia, Dr Janine Luttick, Associate Professor Patrick McArdle, and Dr Sandie Cornish.

Course Dates:

Monde 25 February and 4,18 and 25 March.

Time: 6pm to 8pm

Venue: ACU Canberra Campus

Cost: \$50.00 per person (attendance only)

\$100.00 per person (includes a Certificate of Participation for accreditation purposes).

Accreditation

This course is approved for eight hours towards maintaining accreditation to teach religious education in Catholic Schools (Canberra and Goulburn)

Register by: Friday 22 February

Information and registration:

[acu.edu.au/short-courses-canberra](http://acu.edu.au/short-courses-canberra)

“Love is shown by little things, by attention to small daily signs which make us feel at home. Faith grows when it is lived and shaped by love. That is why our families, our homes, are true domestic churches. They are the right place for faith to become life, and life to grow in faith.” Pope Francis