



Ss Michael & John's Parish

Dimboola – Horsham – Murtoa – Natimuk - Rupanyup - Nhill

BULLETIN

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time — 29th September 2019



Plenary Council 2020



Plenary Council 2020
Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

The 6 Themes we are asked to reflect and pray upon up to April 2020 are:

1. Missionary and evangelising.
2. Inclusive, participatory and synodal.
3. Humble, healing and merciful.
4. Prayerful and Eucharistic.
5. A joyful, hope-filled, servant community
6. Open to conversion renewal and reform.

Attached to the Bulletin today is a timetable where we can gather to reflect on the themes. There will be Group gatherings after 10.30 Mass on some Sundays, and times during the week for us to gather, to pray, listen and discern.

Also attached to the Bulletin is the first theme we will discern - Prayerful and Eucharistic.

PRAYER FOR SICK and CARERS

Compassionate and ever-loving God, You are the source and creator of all healing power. We entrust our sick to your loving care.

We pray your blessings upon all in their own homes, in hospitals, nursing homes, hospice care, palliative care. May You be their source of comfort in pain, of hope in times of despair, woundedness, sorrow, their solace and inspiration when they are unable to lift their hearts, minds and voices to You in prayer. Bless them with courage and faith to place their trust in your healing touch and love.

Bless **caregivers**, as channels of your love, they are your very hands on earth. Give them gentleness as they help the sick, to respect their dignity and value to You.

Give carers and helpers patience and courage as they manage their time, to best serve those who are needful of their care, to continue to serve when weakened by constant demands and when they need your enduring help. Give them love and understanding to be a caring companion, on the path of pain and sadness with the sick.

Bless the **ministry** of those who take Holy Communion to the sick, elderly, and those in Homes and in Hospital.

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest: Fr. Peter Hudson

Parish Secretary: Anita Masiero

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SCHOOLS

Ss Michael & John Primary

Principal: Andrea Cox

Phone: 5382 3000

St Brigid's College

Principal: Peter Gutteridge

Phone: 5382 3545

Our Lady Help of Christians

Principal: Cathy Grace

Phone: 5385 2526



The National Police Remembrance Day Memorial Service in SMJ Church

this Tuesday October 1st at 11am. The Police and others will march from the Police Station at 10.30am. The Victoria Police Band will officiate. All are welcome, refreshments in the Parish Centre after the Service.

CWL Annual Meeting this Tuesday October 1st at 1.30 in the Meeting Room. All welcome. Fr Peter will show slides of his Safari



Social Justice Sunday today Sunday 29th September. entitled ***Making it Real: Genuine human encounter in our digital world.***

The Bishops reassert Pope Francis' call to 'boldly become citizens of the digital world', with the image of the Good Samaritan as our inspiration. The statement affirms the possibilities for encounter and solidarity offered by new digital media, while warning of those elements online that can be harmful. Information overload, social isolation, marginalisation of the vulnerable, consumerism and fake news are just some of the challenges. **Copies of this year's Social Justice**

Statement will be on sale at Masses today at \$1

Parish Finance Committee Meeting this Wednesday Oct 2nd at 12noon. Mark Bromley will attend to lead us in review of our Parish Finances.

The Finance Committee will be added to after this Meeting to bring on new members and to lead to a review and update of Planned Giving.

WEEKDAY MASSES: A Funeral Mass will replace weekday Mass

Tuesday 1st Oct	5.30pm	St Therese. Pedro Bale anniv.
Wednesday 2nd	9.30am	Guardian Angels
Thursday 3rd Oct	9.30am	
Friday 4th Oct	9.30am	St Francis of Assisi
Saturday 5th Oct	10.00am	St Faustina

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God, my creator, breathe on me, renew me, refresh me, extend my abilities, comfort me in adjusting to changes in health, mobility and activity. Body of Jesus Christ flow through every fibre of my being. Keep me well, and hope filled, always. Holy Spirit use me in my situation, for the good of others. Amen



Please Remember in Your Prayers

RECENT DEATHS: Sr. Canisia Larkin CSB, Patrick Higgins (Rupanyup)

ANNIVERSARIES: Gay Valmadre, Frank Drum, Pedro Bale, Gertie Brophy, Dom Zalenga, Evelyn Peach.

SICK: Brian Rice, Carmel Cannard, Debbie Nolan, Fleur Armstrong, Ken Dowsley, Betty Fitzgerald, Jill & Christie Higginbottom, Heather McPhee, Shilpa Joe, Joan Glen, John McNamara,

Emergency Care: Contact Parish Office 5382 1155

Next Sunday 1st Sunday of the Month
27th Sunday in Ordinary Time 6th October 2019

Horsham	Saturday - 6.30pm. Sunday - 10.30am
Murtoa	Sunday Mass 8.30am
Dimboola	Sunday Mass 8.30am Nhill 5pm

Rosary, Litany of Mary & Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesdays at 4.30pm. All welcome.

Regular Activities in the Parish

Craft Group Every Monday - Parish Meeting Room Mornings - 9.30am to 11.30am. Evening - 7pm to 9pm. BYO Craft - Gold Coin Donation. Contact Anita at Parish Office

Meditation Group: Church Meeting Room Tuesdays 2.00pm.

CWL Meetings 1st Tuesday of Month 1.30pm. Meeting Room.

Men's Group Meeting will be at the 3rd Thursday of the month in the Parish Centre. Contact Patrick 0428847455

St Vincent de Paul Conference. Meets twice monthly. Available Monday & Friday 11am-12pm for assistance. Phone 53812371

BAPTISM PREPARATION. For enrolment and appointment contact Parish Office 53821155.



Ballarat Clergy Collection for Retired Priests
Our parish this year has raised **\$1422.05** to date.
You can still contribute, by using the BCSF Envelope, with credit card details, available in the Foyers. Donations \$2 and over are tax deductible.

OLD CANDLES to recycle to make our candles could you please drop them into the Parish office. Thank you.

The Shared Table. Brochures are in the Church Foyers to explain how your \$1 a week can help the people of Lima, Peru, set up kitchens to cook good food. Please return your form and money to the Office.

Global Rosary - October 13 You are invited to pray the rosary particularly on October 13, the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima. People can join in this prayer by praying the rosary personally or by praying the rosary with others

Child Safety Standards. Ss Michael & John Parish has **Bob Pritchett** as our Safeguarding Officer. We have a **Child Safety Policy** to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children in our care. A **Child Safety Code of Conduct** has been adopted for all who work with children in the Parish. Our Parish seeks to always be a child safe Parish

Parish Pastoral Council Members:
Chris Robarts (Chair), Peter Gutteridge, Andrea Cox, Fr Peter, Lesley Price, Alison McKinnon, Daryl Wren, Bob Pritchett, Garry Heinrich, Cathy Grace, Margaret Lingham, Joan Lane-Storey, Srs Manuela & Tirsa, Anita Masiero (Sec)

ROSTERS

28/29Sept	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Eucharistic Ministers	Anne Newton Sr Tirsa Bale Anthony Amor Sr Jacinta Rice Bernadette Trounce Joan Parker Lorraine Clancy	Neville Strachan Lynda Hutchinson Rosie Taylor Zita Cannane Andrea Cox Faye Wills Bob Pritchett
Commentator	Garry Heinrich	Michael Connellan
5/6 October	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Readers	Kevin Dunn	Louise Kemp
Commentator	Sr Jacinta Rice	Anna Robertson
Eucharistic Ministers	Geoff Simpson Simon Lynch Bob Hayes Anne Newton Sr Tirsa Bale Anthony Amor Sr Jacinta Rice	Neville Strachan Lynda Hutchinson Rosie Taylor Zita Cannane Mary Dagleish Andrea Cox Faye Wills
Projector	Peter Gutteridge	Robert Sartori
Musicians	Filipino Choir	Choir
Welcomers	Connie Besselar Gavin Hynam	Marina Mansera Zita Cannane
Prayers	Alison McKinnon & Anna Robertson	
Church Cleaning & Flower Arranging		6th October Pat O'Connor Win Stephens Barbara Connellan

FINANCE: 1st Collection (Presbytery Account):

Natimuk	\$ 13.00	Murtoa	\$ 76.00
Horsham	\$ 691.00 !!	Dimboola	\$ 70.00
Total		\$ 850.00	

2nd Collection (Parish Account)

Envelopes	\$ 1230.00	Loose	\$ 73.40
Credit Card	\$	Direct Debit	\$
Total		\$ 1303.40	

Making Connections: Share what you have with someone who has less this week

Marriage Tip: "Committing oneself exclusively and definitively to another person always involves a risk and a bold gamble." – Pope Francis. The grace of God gives us strength for lifelong commitment!

Daily Prayer: You hear, O God, the prayer of those whose faith is the size of a mustard seed. Give us humility of heart, that we may work with all our strength for the growth of your kingdom, yet recognise that we are only useless servants, whom you have called in order to reveal to all the wonders your love has accomplished.

A Vocation View: Courage! Courage when you follow the Lord. Remember, people may not be convinced, even if one should rise from the dead. Live, in order to testify to the resurrection and life.

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time The sin of the rich man in today's parable was not that he was rich, but that he failed to share his wealth with the beggar at his gate. He knew Lazarus, perhaps walked by him every time he came in or out, but did nothing to relieve his suffering. Is there a Lazarus in my life? What am I doing to help?

Holy Hour today Sunday after 10.30 Mass from 11.30am to 12.30pm.
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, time for personal prayer.

Country Mass Times:

Oct 6th: Murtoa 8.30am. Dimboola 8.30am. **Nhill 5pm**
Oct 13th: Murtoa Mass 10.30. Dimboola Mass 8.30.
Oct 20th: Murtoa 8.30am. Dimboola 8.30am. Nhill 10am
Oct 27th: Natimuk 8.30. Dimboola 8.30. Murtoa 10.30.
Nov 3rd: Murtoa 10.30. Dimboola 8.30. **Nhill 5pm**

CWL 90th BIRTHDAY Sunday Oct 20th

The CWL 90th Birthday Celebration and Reunion is on **Sunday 20th October** at 10.30am Mass, and a Lunch in the Parish Centre after Mass.

All current and former members are invited to Mass and Lunch to celebrate the 90th birthday and to rekindle old friendships.

RSVP: by October 1st, to Marina 5382 1047, Tess 5381 1785 or Frances 5382 1546

Thank you to all who are involved in Liturgical ministries, Parish Groups, and who volunteer time and talents to these and community organizations.

U are important.

You cannot spell Ch_rh without u.

Ad_It without u. Yo_th without u.

S_ccess without u.

S_nday Mass without u.

Comm_nity without u.

The Community and Church needs u. **THANK U**



Seniors Week October 7th to 11th.
We will honour our Senior Parishioners with an Afternoon Tea in the Parish Centre on Tuesday October 15th at 2pm.

Afternoon Tea will be supplied.

Come as you are. If anyone needs a ride, please contact Anita in the Office 53821155.

Palms Australia: Communities in Asia, Africa and the Pacific seek volunteer medics, teachers, tradies, business & admins to assist their development.
Enq: 029560 5333



From September 1 to October 4, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, Christians around the world celebrate the Season of Creation - through prayer, changes in lifestyle, advocacy. Themes for the month are Ocean, Fauna & Flora, Storm, today the Cosmos, next Sunday Blessing of Animals. The fourth week in the Season of Creation confronts us with the issue of the strategies we may need to employ if we are to create more sustainable ways of inhabiting the planet. **Blessing of the Animals Prayer in this weekend's Liturgy.**
Bring your pet along to 10.30 Mass for a Blessing.

Mass of Thanksgiving to celebrate the Ordination of Rev Shane Mackinlay as Bishop of Bendigo, will be in St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat on Wednesday, November 13th at 7.00pm, followed by supper in the Cathedral Hall. All welcome to attend. Shane's Ordination as Bishop will be in Sacred Heart Cathedral in Bendigo, Wednesday October 16th at 12 Noon

John Molony Tribute A special day is to be held to honour the memory of John Molony who was a priest in the Ballarat Diocese during the 1950's and early 1960's, to remember his dedication to the issues of his time. **Saturday, October 19, at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat Hall, 11am to 4pm.**

Speakers will speak on topics that mattered to John and are of interest to people of today, with Discussion groups on these issues. Registration is important to complete catering arrangements. To enrol by September 30th, contact Phillip Moore, ph. 0448 623 142 or phill.moore1@bigpond.com or Frank Sheehan, ph. 0429 347 345 or email franksheehan@bigpond.com

FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING - November 24 at 10.30

Mass. Let us celebrate the Feast of Christ the King in November with the coming together of our combined Parish nationalities. We are looking for our many cultural groups to carry a flag of their country of origin and to wear their national dress. More details later

Child Safe Workshop Report. All ministries in all Churches to have WWCC. We will put have a half glass door in the Reconciliation Room, and small windows in Sacristy and Meeting Room doors in the Church.

Children's Liturgy will be postponed as a number of issues need to be clarified before proceeding.

We are seeking a Female to work with Bob Pritchett as Safeguarding Officer, anyone interested please see Fr Peter or Bob Pritchett

I was a stranger and you welcomed me...



Come along to hear

**An Update on
Asylum Seekers**

**Visiting Speaker:
Sr Brigid Arthur csb,**

Co-ordinator of the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project

Monday 14th October, at 7.30 p.m.

Christmas Crib Display. From Tuesday December 3 to Sunday December 8th, Fr Andrew Hayes, Fiona Tonkin and Kevin Linard will bring to our Parish more than 300 nativity scenes in a stunning exhibition. There are figurines, cribs and mangers of all shapes, sizes, ages and histories, and many of the nativity scenes have fascinating stories behind them. One of the oldest items dates back to 1750, a sheep from Germany 254 yrs old. **The Display will be in Nhill on Tuesday 3rd, and in the Parish Centre from Wednesday 4th to Sunday 8.** **Schools will attend the Display. If you have a Crib scene you may wish to display for this time, you are welcome to bring it. Please see Fr Peter beforehand.**

Fr Richard Leonard SJ will lead our Parish in a Mission from November 23rd to 27th this year.

First Reading: Amos 6:1, 4-7

The almighty Lord says this:

Woe to those ensconced so snugly in Zion and to those who feel so safe on the mountain of Samaria. Lying on ivory beds and sprawling on their divans, they dine on lambs from the flock, and stall-fattened veal; they bawl to the sound of the harp, they invent new instruments of music like David, they drink wine by the bowlful, and use the finest oil for anointing themselves, but about the ruin of Joseph they do not care at all. That is why they will be the first to be exiled; the sprawlers' revelry is over.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 145:6-10

Praise the Lord, my soul!

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down. It is the Lord who loves the just, the Lord, who protects the stranger.

He upholds the widow and orphan but thwarts the path of the wicked.

The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age.

Praise the Lord, my soul!

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:11-16

As a man dedicated to God, you must aim to be saintly and religious, filled with faith and love, patient and gentle. Fight the good fight of the faith and win for yourself the eternal life to which you were called when you made your profession and spoke up for the truth in front of many witnesses. Now, before God the source of all life and before Jesus Christ, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I put to you the duty of doing all that you have been told, with no faults or failures, until the Appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who at the due time will be revealed by God, the blessed and only Ruler of all, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, who alone is immortal, whose home is in inaccessible light, whom no man has seen and no man is able to see: to him be honour and everlasting power. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation: 2 Corin 8:9

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor, to make you rich out of his poverty. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

Jesus said to the Pharisees: 'There was a rich man who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day. And at his gate there lay a poor man called Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to fill himself with the

scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even came and licked his sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In his torment in Hades he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off with Lazarus in his bosom. So he cried out, "Father Abraham, pity me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames." "My son," Abraham replied "remember that during your life good things came your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony. But that is not all: between us and you a great gulf has been fixed, to stop anyone, if he wanted to, crossing from our side to yours, and to stop any crossing from your side to ours." 'The rich man replied, "Father, I beg you then to send Lazarus to my father's house, since I have five brothers, to give them warning so that they do not come to this place of torment too." "They have Moses and the prophets," said Abraham, "let them listen to them." "Ah, no, father Abraham," said the rich man "but if someone comes to them from the dead, they will repent." Then Abraham said to him, "If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead."

Gospel Reflection – 26th Sunday.

Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

The theme of the 2019-2020 Social Justice Statement is "making it real: genuine human encounter in a digital world." It calls us to ensure that the new digital technology facilitates rather than inhibits the spread of the gospel. The gospel reading invites us to look at the wealth we enjoy, to sharpen our awareness of the needs of those who seek to share the bounty we claim for ourselves, to notice the poor who wait for justice at our gates and seek a part in the life we enjoy. This inclusive embrace is the vision we espouse in this final week of the Season of Creation. The gospel parable presents a nasty mega rich character using his wealth to support a totally self-centred life-style. He dresses in the finest clothes and feasts extravagantly every day. He has no concern for or interest in the destitute

and badly wounded man, Lazarus, who has been cast at his gate and who longs for a share in whatever falls ('scraps' in our translation) from the rich man's table. The reference here is probably to the pita bread commonly used by diners at banquets to wipe their hands. The bread would be discarded after use and snapped up by the dogs. There is a reasonable chance that, even if the servants fail to offer Lazarus the leftovers, the dogs might share with him their daily fare. Begging for food was often the sole means of sustenance for those with disabilities. Lazarus has a serious disability: he is "sorely wounded"; he is "cast" at the gate and has no capacity to prevent the dogs from licking his sores. Lazarus dies and is transported by angels into the arms of Israel's iconic ancestor, Abraham. In contrast, the rich man dies and suffers the torment of Hades. There is no

mention of angels to transport him to the place of his ancestors. The rich man's suffering is exacerbated by the vision of the man whose needs he ignored in life now "a long way off" in Abraham's embrace. Earlier in Luke's story, Jesus has declared the bent-over woman to be a daughter of Abraham. Later, he will call the toll-collector Zacchaeus a "son of Abraham". To be "of Abraham" is to be true to the tradition inaugurated by Israel's ancestor in faith. It is to "hear" Moses and the prophets and their call to justice and right relationship. Riches belong, not to the few, but to the whole Earth community. If they are all-consuming, they destroy our capacity to see or hear what really matters. The rich man came to this realisation too late. The period of digital detox calls us to reflect to restore the balance required for the health of all on our planet.

Next Week's Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith.' The Lord replied, 'Were your faith the size of a mustard seed you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea," and it would obey you. "Which of you, with a servant ploughing or minding sheep, would say to him when he returned from the fields, "Come and have your meal immediately?" Would he not be more likely to say, "Get my supper laid; make

yourself tidy and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink yourself afterwards"? Must he be grateful to the servant for doing what he was told? So with you: when you have done all you have been told to do, say, "We are merely servants: we have done no more than our duty."

**Daylight Saving**

begins next Sunday morning, 6 October. Before bed turn our clocks **forward one hour** so that 2am on Sunday becomes 3am.

We pray for blessings on a successful Horsham Show today, Sunday, and for Murtoa's Big Weekend next Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Murtoa Ecumenical Service next Sunday at 11am in Civic Hall led by St Marys

Plenary Council Listen and Discernment Encounters – Horsham

You are invited to participate in these Groups.

Group gatherings will be after the Horsham 10.30 Mass on Sunday October 6th (next Sunday), on Sunday October 27th, Sunday November 3rd, and Sunday November 17th.

These will be held in the Church Meeting Room across from the Sacristy. The mid week Gatherings will be in the Parish Meeting Room.

Sunday 6th October 11.30am – led by Sr Jacinta – theme: Prayerful and Eucharistic. In the Church Meeting Room.

Wednesday 23rd October 7.30pm – led by Lesley Price – theme: Prayerful and Eucharistic. In the Parish Meeting Room.

Sunday 27th October 11.30am – led by Sr Jacinta – theme: Humble, Healing and Merciful. In the Church Meeting Room.

Monday 28th October 7.30pm – led by Sr Jacinta – theme: Humble, Healing and Merciful. In the Parish Meeting Room.

Sunday 3rd November 11.30am – led by Lesley Price – theme: Missionary and Evangelising. In the Church Meeting Room.

Wednesday 13th November 7.30pm – led by Lesley Price – theme: Missionary and Evangelising. In the Parish Meeting Room.

Sunday 17th November 11.30am – led by Lesley Price – theme: Open to Conversion, Renewal and Reform. In the Church Meeting Room.

Wednesday 20th November 2pm and 7.30pm – led by Fr Peter – theme: Open to Conversion, Renewal and Reform. In the Parish Meeting Room.

We will cover 4 of the 6 Themes up to the end of November.

The other 2 themes will do in February and March.

Let's share & listen

There will be a Scripture Reading with three rounds of sharing, listening and reflection with each Topic. This practice of Spiritual Conversations is taken from the Ignatian tradition. It is a part of the Communal discernment process and provides a way for groups of people to listen to God, by listening to one another, and praying together.

*Listen to what
the Spirit is saying*

**How is God calling us to
be a Christ-centred Church
in Australia that is
prayerful and Eucharistic?**

Plenary Council Prayer

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 on 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.

Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.

St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.

Topics people submitted up to March 6th



Snapshot Report

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

PRAYERFUL AND EUCHARISTIC

AS WE MOVE INTO THE SECOND STAGE OF THE PLenary COUNCIL JOURNEY, WE CONTINUE TO SEEK THE WISDOM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. Beginning in July 2019, we are invited to reflect on Scripture, Church teaching and our contemporary situation in order to discern the answer to this question: How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is prayerful and Eucharistic? The fruits of what is discerned during this time will help shape the agenda of the first session of Plenary Council in October 2020.

This National Theme for Discernment is inspired by the voices of the People of God who shared how deeply they treasured the Eucharist and the sacramental and liturgical life of the Church. There was a call for stronger and more engaging preaching, with an emphasis on the Word of God and connection to daily life, some seeking a uniquely Australian expression of prayer and Eucharistic celebration, drawing from the wisdom and rituals of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and also bringing together the many migrant communities which make up the Church in Australia. There were many divergent expressions of ways in which people and communities encounter God through their experiences of prayer, music and liturgy, and a desire for catechesis, training and formation for those in ministries related to these.

What is Discernment?

'166. How can we know if something comes from the Holy Spirit or if it stems from the spirit of the world or the spirit of the devil? The only way is through discernment, which calls for something more than intelligence or common sense. It is a gift which we must implore. If we ask with confidence that the Holy Spirit grant us this gift, and then seek to develop it through prayer, reflection, reading and good counsel, then surely we will grow in this spiritual endowment.'

St Ignatius developed his Spiritual Exercises to help us make good decisions. The process helps us to become more sensitive to the action of God in our lives. God's desire for each one of us is that we should be at peace and joyful. St Ignatius described this as being in a state of **consolation** – feeling that we are in the right place and doing the right thing.

The term discernment often gets used these days to refer to two quite distinct but related things: making big apostolic decisions, life choices, and such – what Ignatius called 'election'; and the more humble practice of discernment of spirits. Both are practical skills; both are aimed at making choices, either big decisions or the small stuff of moment-by-moment, hour-by-hour, day-by-day practicality – what I think of as micro-choices.

The question becomes: Given what everyone has said, and in light of the wisdom of scripture and our Catholic tradition, how might we be a Christ-centred church in each area of these National Themes for Discernment?

Isn't it good when people value our wisdom so much, they want to ask us again? They want to deepen their listening and bring our wisdom into the efforts being made to shape the agenda for the Plenary Council.

So please, let us respond to this invitation, whether you participated before or not.

Another opportunity is here, new questions are being asked, and if we really want to "Listen to what the Spirit is saying?" then we need to listen to everyone, for the Holy Spirit resides in each of us.

Let's Listen & Discern

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



