



'LET'S LISTEN AND DISCERN'

For a Listening and Discernment encounter for the Plenary Council, parishioners from the Gordon Parish chose the theme: 'How God is calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is a joyful, hope-filled and servant community'.

On Sunday, November 17, we gathered in Gordon for a simple shared lunch after Mass, before the discernment process as outlined in the 'Let's Listen and Discern' publication from the Plenary Council Facilitation Team. We called on the Holy Spirit to be with us and our invitation was truly accepted. Participants appreciated the communal discernment and the silence and listening led to some wonderful sharing and many possible actions.

Earlier, in October, we ran a 'pilot group' with the theme: 'How God is calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is Missionary and Evangelising.' This resulted in a submission to the Plenary Council which included proposals about outreach to families, and the disengaged, community, schools and parish vision statements.

The submission from Sunday's session is yet to be worded. However, there was much sharing about caring for people in need, prayer and liturgy opportunities, social justice and community. Some issues were on a national level, and others on a local level.

Appreciation goes to the twenty-five parishioners (five men and twenty women) who took part in such a meaningful way, to the leaders and organisers, to St Patrick's school for the use of their premises, to the Plenary Council facilitation team for the process, and to the Holy Spirit who was with us.

Sr Kathleen Moran rsm

Photo: Sr Kathleen and Lin Bowers (centre) attend the Plenary Council session with Lana Turvey-Collins

