

Introducing Felicity Knobel

Felicity Knobel is one of the Diocese's Plenary Council Delegates.

Felicity is a parishioner in the Ballarat Cathedral Parish and is one of the co-facilitators, along with Jillian Hogbin, of the Plenary Discernment gatherings that have been offered for the themes of the Plenary Council.



Felicity understands the Plenary process and the importance of listening and discernment. While she has her own views, these are not imposed on others and she is very respectful of the views of others. She acknowledges that as a teacher in Catholic Education and also a parent to young children that you can become focused on issues and areas that are pertinent to your life. Participating and listening in the Plenary process has opened her eyes (and ears) to other facets of the Catholic faith and she feels that she has learnt considerably throughout the process. Working with the Plenary discussion group was an enjoyable experience for Felicity, getting to know people in the parish and especially working with Jillian Hogbin. Not only was she able to discuss and learn, she enjoyed making new friendships within the group.

Felicity is currently a teacher at Loreto College Ballarat. She is formerly the Religious Educator Leader at Loreto College and has completed a Masters in Educational Leadership as well as further study in the Enhancing Catholic School Identity Project. Previously, Felicity has been the Sacramental Coordinator at St Columba's Parish Ballarat North. Felicity has also worked at both ACU and Federation University and worked for several years overseas in England, China and Vietnam.

Felicity's husband Gerard is a teacher also and leader of Religious Education at Penola Catholic College (Broadmeadows) as well as being a member of the Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council. Felicity and Gerard's two children, Jemima and Joseph attend St Patrick's Primary School, Ballarat.

With the Plenary Council being postponed, Felicity acknowledges and understands the predicament of our world at the moment. While the postponement is not ideal, it is also beneficial in the fact that Felicity will have further opportunity to speak to more parishioners throughout the Diocese and take every opportunity to meet with, listen to and further understand other peoples' views.

Felicity is incredibly humbled to be chosen in this role and is looking forward to participating and bringing with her the Ballarat Diocese voice on this journey. Felicity is particularly passionate about women in leadership and having a voice in the Catholic Church and within Catholic Education. She is particularly looking forward to bringing these voices to the Plenary Council.