

A Prayer for the Plenary Council

**Blessed are you, God of all creation.
You have given us life and light
and all the wonders of the world.
You have sent your Son Jesus
to be our Saviour
and your Holy Spirit to be our guide.**

**As we prepare for the plenary council,
we ask you to come into our hearts
with your Son and Holy Spirit.
Come to us and make your home in us.**

**We pray for our local community,
for the people of our diocese
and for the Church throughout Australia.**

**May your wisdom show us the way,
for your word is a lamp for our feet
and a light for our path.**

**Come and fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in us the fire of your love,
that we may live by your gospel
and share your good news with all we meet.**

**Holy Mary, Mother of our Saviour, pray for us.
St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.**

Plenary Council

The Catholic Church in Australia has commenced preparations for a plenary council to be held in two sessions, the first in October 2020 and the second in May 2021. The council will involve representatives of Church communities from all around the nation, including bishops, priests, religious and laity.

The role of a plenary council is to provide for the pastoral needs of the people of God in the particular country. So this council will be considering the needs of the Church throughout Australia and how we might fulfil our mission of sharing the good news of Christ with people today.

In the diocese of Ballarat, we will have opportunities to gather in our local communities for prayer and dialogue, so that we might make our contribution to the plenary council. I invite you to take part in these gatherings, joining together in prayer and learning from the wisdom that the Spirit gives to each one.

I invite you to pray the prayer on the other side of this card for God's blessing on us all.

CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
of
BALLARAT



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Bishop of Ballarat