



Announcement

Australian Catholic Church to hold first Plenary Council in 80 years
The Australian Catholic Church, with the approval of Pope Francis, will hold a Plenary Council in 2020 to discuss its way forward in light of the challenges it faces in contemporary society.

Article

By Richard Marsden

Pope Francis has given his approval for the Catholic Church in Australia to hold its first Plenary Council - the most significant national ecclesiastical gathering – in more than 80 years.

The Council in 2020 will address the way forward for the Church in Australia in light of the challenges it faces in contemporary society.

Discernment on the way ahead

Delegates from the 34 “local churches” of Australia will gather across two sessions in 2020 and 2021 to enable deeper discernment, further learning, and dialogue. The process begins at Pentecost 2018 and will help form the agenda for the Council. In a statement by the Australian Bishops Conference, Archbishop Mark Coleridge of Brisbane, chair of the Bishops Commission for the Plenary Council, said the gathering “will be a unique opportunity for people to come together and listen to God in all the ways God speaks to us, and in particular by listening to one another as together we discern what God is asking of us at this time – a time when the Church in Australia is facing significant challenges.”

He added: “We sincerely hope the preparation and celebration of the Plenary Council is a time when all parts of the Church listen to and dialogue with one another as we explore together how we might answer the question: ‘What do you think God is asking of us in Australia?’”

“Seize the opportunity”

In approving the Plenary Council, Pope Francis also endorsed the bishops’ nomination of Archbishop Timothy Costelloe of Perth as the president of the Plenary Council. The Archbishop said: “I encourage all Catholics, whether devout or disillusioned, fervent or frustrated, to seize this opportunity to speak what is on their minds and in their hearts.”

A series of planning meetings has already taken place in which faith-filled people across the country have shared their hopes for the Church.

Website launch

The bishops of Australia have launched a website for the Plenary Council to help people better understand how they can participate in the discussion process. The website can be found at

<http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>

Decisions made at the Plenary Council will become binding for the Catholic Church in Australia, subject to the approval of the Holy See.

Bishops Commission for the Plenary Council

[Facilitator: Ms Lana Turvey-Collins](#)

19 Mackenzie Street
Lavender Bay NSW 2060

T: 0481 915 201

F: 02 8904 0185

E: plenary.council@catholic.org.au

Chairman

Archbishop Mark B Coleridge

Members

Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB

Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFMConv

Bishop Michael R Kennedy

Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay OLM

Advised by

Plenary Council Executive Committee

<https://www.catholic.org.au/commissions/bishops-commission-for-the-plenary-council> accessed Tuesday 15 May 2018

Introduction

Listening to God by listening to one another.

Together, we are on a journey of listening to God by listening to one another. We invite all Australians to engage in an open and inclusive process of listening, dialogue and discernment about the future of the Catholic Church in Australia. Your voice is needed – join in! Speak boldly and with passion, listen with an open and humble heart. With faith and guided by God's Holy Spirit, we journey together, toward the future.

Quotes to inspire

"Love one another, just as I have loved you."

Jesus, Jn 15:12

"Now is the time for each local Church to assess its fervour and find fresh enthusiasm for its spiritual and pastoral responsibilities, by reflecting on what the Spirit has been saying to the People of God."

Pope John Paul II, Novo Millennio Inneunte 3.

"The real newness is the newness which God himself mysteriously brings about and inspires, provokes, guides and accompanies in a thousand ways."

Pope Francis, EG12.

"I hope that all communities will devote the necessary effort to advancing along the path of a pastoral and missionary conversion which cannot leave things as they presently are."

Pope Francis EG27

Plenary Council video resources YouTube Channel

We will upload videos in coming months that we hope will be helpful resources for you to journey together. Learning about topics related to Church, mission, discernment, listening and synodality and more.

If you have particular requests or if you know about a video resource others might find helpful, use the [Contact Us](#) page and let us know.

Plenary Council

1. [Welcome to Plenary Council](#) – Listening to God by Listening to one another.
2. [The story so far... Why are we having a Plenary Council?](#) *Archbishop Mark Coleridge*
3. [Introduction to Plenary Council 2020.](#) *Lana Turvey-Collins, Plenary Council Facilitator*

Formation

4. [Vatican II and the Church's Mission](#)
5. [Bishop Robert Barron on the meaning of Vatican II](#)

Plenary Council podcast resources

We will provide links to relevant podcasts that we hope will be helpful resources for you to journey together. Learning about topics related to Church, mission, discernment, listening and synodality and more. If you have particular requests or if you know about an audio resource others might find helpful, use the Contact Us

[Pray-as-You-Go](#)

Each 12-minute episode is designed to help Wish you could spend more time reflecting on Scripture? This podcast sends you a daily Lectio Divina meditation on one of the daily readings. you to pray wherever you are, whether that's on a bus, in a car or with your dog in the park (hence the "go" part of "pray as you go"). Every episode includes music, the reading for the day, a few questions for reflection and a closing prayer. They also have an app! Pray-As-You-Go is a great way to incorporate prayer into your life when you're not in the chapel.

[Catholic Stuff You Should Know](#)

CSYSK is hosted by four priests from the Archdiocese of Denver in the USA: Fr. Nathan Goebel, Fr. John Nepil, Fr. Mike Rapp and Fr. Michael O'Loughlin. They cover a huge variety of topics, including papal infallibility, bikinis and the Apostolic Pardon, to name a few. They also share their experiences as parish priests with a great mix of banter, hilarious unedited commentary and solid factoids about Catholic stuff you should know.

[National Catholic Reporter Podcast: NCR in Conversation](#)

[The Francis Effect](#)

A podcast about culture and politics from a Catholic perspective .

Read

Welcome to the Plenary Council reading resources! We will provide links to relevant articles and books that we hope will be helpful resources for you to journey together. Learning about topics related to Church, mission, discernment, listening and synodality and more. If you have particular requests or if you know about a great resource others might find helpful, use the Contact Us page and let us know.

<http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/assets/uploads/pentecost-launch-prayers-and-resources.pdf> accessed 15 May 2018