



APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE
AUSTRALIA

Canberra, 18th May 2018

N. 1948/18

Your Grace,

I hasten to forward to you the following message of the Holy Father on the occasion of the inauguration of the 2020 Plenary Council:

I extend cordial greetings and prayerful good wishes as the Catholic community in Australia joins in prayer this Pentecost Sunday to launch the immediate preparations for the forthcoming 2020 Plenary Council. Upon all taking part in the preparatory process, I invoke the Holy Spirit's gifts of wisdom, harmony and openness to the Lord's will for the future of his pilgrim Church in the country. It is my hope that through patient dialogue and faith-filled discernment, the conciliar journey will confirm the Catholics in Australia in a spirit of fraternal unity and missionary discipleship, thus enabling them to be a leaven of holiness, justice and reconciliation in today's rapidly changing society. As a pledge of the sustaining grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, I willingly impart my Apostolic Blessing.

FRANCISCUS PP.

With sentiments of fraternal regards, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

✠ Adolfo Tito Yllana

Tit. Archbishop of Montecorvino
Apostolic Nuncio

His Grace
Most Reverend Timothy Costelloe, SDB
Archbishop of Perth
PO Box 3311
East Perth, WA 6892



Launch of the Listening Phase, Pentecost 2018

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.

- At the time of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit enabled all people to understand one another. The Holy Spirit transcended all languages, customs and cultures and the early communities of faith were able to listen to one another and hear the message of Jesus, of God's great love for the world.
- Today, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we look toward the future and begin the process of preparing for the Plenary Council. We, too, will need to rely on the gifts of the Holy Spirit to speak boldly, and to listen humbly and with open hearts to one another and especially to God.
- The Plenary Council gives us all an opportunity to listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Church in Australia. We are going to build the agenda for the Plenary Council together, through dialogue – we will practise talking with one another, even if we disagree. In the midst of dialogue, we can hear God's voice. Every one of us is invited to listen to God by listening to one another.
- Alongside the preparation for the Plenary Council, this year we are celebrating the Year of Youth. Our young people are like those early Christians when the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost – anointed and sent, they have the energy and vibrancy of youth and we all are nourished by their witness and their faith.
- The Plenary Council Listening and Dialogue Encounters and the Year of Youth are ways in which the Church in Australia can express the spirit of Pentecost today. We call upon the Holy Spirit to guide us, to help us hear God's voice as we ask ***“What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?”***
- In the months ahead, we will have the opportunity to gather together and listen to one another, to reflect on this question and share our own stories of faith, and our experiences of the Church. Our stories and ideas and the questions we have about the future of the Church can be given as a submission through the Plenary Council webpage.

