

Phase 2 Plenary Council Listening and Discernment

St Thomas the Apostle Submission November 2019

Theme 1 Missionary and Evangelising

Post school adult formation that is informative, low cost and regular. Find new ways to capture and engage our young people including music ministry. Inclusion, support for and engagement of our First Nation People. Increase our social justice programs e.g. Catholic care, refugees and St Vinnies. Be more outspoken and display leadership on social justice issues

Theme 2 Inclusive, Participatory and Synodal

Send out communication to laity of the Church's compliance with the Royal Commission.

Set up a Diocesan Pastoral Council based on co-responsibility, cooperation and wide structure including Bishops, priests, religious and laity. Higher level training for seminarians and priests that includes monthly pastoral supervision. Outreach to young people with programs that engage them. Broaden the eligibility for priesthood including married priest and reduce the celibacy requirement.

Theme 3 Prayerful and Eucharistic

Stronger leadership from priests, appoint administrators for parishes to free up priests. Increase involvement of laity at all levels in the Church. Authentic faith teaching in Catholic schools that includes families and engages the young people. Increased education and support for newly engaged and married young people. Laity to be included on selection committees for Bishops.

Theme 4 Humble, Healing and Merciful

More open Church that includes the divorced, LGBTQ, young people. Greater transparency and accountability with inclusion of laity on high level boards and committees. Cease clericalism, starting with the training and formation of priests. Women to have equal representation in the Church. Rebuilding of faith and trust in the Church. Support for all our priests with mentors, regular training and updating, as well as monthly supervision.

Theme 5 Joyful, Hope-Filled and Servant Community

Small groups and communities that meet locally for adult formation, faith development and prayer, e.g. Catholic Alpha. Greater engagement of young people at parish level, through youth groups and prayer activities. True leadership and inclusion of the laity in all roles in the Church. Greater transparency through information sharing and laity engagement across all levels of Church.

Theme 6 Open to Conversion, Renewal and Reform

Lay inertia to cease and take a more active role in the Church, where parishioners and priests work together to support parishes, includes an active Parish Pastoral Committee. Identify the gifts and talents within the parish and empower these people to lead and support our priests. Withdraw from clericalism and have a conversion of the heart through deepening spirituality in parishes.