



Plenary Council 2020: Questions & Answers for Parishes and Schools of the Diocese of Broken Bay

Questions	Answers
Participation: Who is invited to participate in Listening and Dialogue Sessions?	All people are invited to participate in a Listening and Dialogue Session, no matter where they might find themselves in relation to the Church – deeply involved, only partially engaged, uncertain or disillusioned, or even angry, on the margins, or perhaps a friendly or critical outsider looking in. We need to hear from all people because we are sure that God speaks to us all, and the Church needs to listen to everyone.
Participation: Are children able to participate in the Listening and Dialogue sessions in our parish community?	<p>The voice of children is a gift. Children and young people (under 18s) are very welcome to participate in parish and school Listening and Dialogue Sessions.</p> <p>Please note that there is a customised Listening and Dialogue Session Guide for young people available on the national Plenary Council website which you can use for dialogue for young people in parishes, schools and other contexts: http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/have-your-say</p> <p>If children and young people (under 18s) participate in a parish Listening and Dialogue Session together with adults, it is recommended that an adult submit the responses to the national Plenary Council website on the group's behalf at http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/have-your-say</p> <p>If young people hold their own dialogue and seek to submit their own response to the national Plenary Council website, they can do so provided they are 13 years or older. For those children under 13, the national website instructs them to speak to a parent or guardian who can submit their response on their behalf.</p> <p>For those aged between 13 and 15 years, they can submit their response to the national Plenary Council website, though the website will request a valid email of a parent/carer. The parent/carer will then receive an email seeking their consent for the submission to be included in the Plenary Council process. If no permission is received, the response will not be included in the Plenary Council process.</p>



<p>Participation: Are children able to participate in the Listening and Dialogue sessions in our parish community? (cont'd)</p>	<p>If 16 or 17 years of age, the national Plenary Council website simply prompts the young person to discuss their submission with a parent or guardian before submitting their response.</p>
<p>Listening and Dialogue Sessions: How do I organise a Listening and Dialogue Session in my local community?</p>	<p>The Office for Evangelisation has prepared two documents to assist you to host a Listening and Dialogue Session in your local community. They are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Listening and Dialogue Guide for the Diocese of Broken Bay; 2) Local Animator and Facilitator Notes for the Diocese of Broken Bay. <p>These are the essential documents you need to facilitate a Listening and Dialogue Session. The 'Local Animator and Facilitator Notes' provide instructions and a practical checklist to organise a session, including materials you will need (e.g. pens, post-it notes, Listening and Dialogue Guides), prayers and pre-prepared scripts to make it easy for your Local Animator or delegated facilitator to guide a group through dialogue.</p> <p>These two documents are available on the Broken Bay diocesan website (www.bbcatholic.org.au) and have been provided to your Local Animator at their August training day.</p>
<p>Participant Feedback: How can local parishes and schools receive and hear the feedback that their people share and submit toward the Plenary Council?</p>	<p>The Listening and Discussion Guide encourages participants to share their feedback with one another so they can hear and receive each other's points of view in the Listening and Dialogue Session itself.</p> <p>It is strongly encouraged that the Parish Priest, parish team and Parish Pastoral Council members attend and participate in listening sessions in their parish so they can hear the views of their own people. In schools, the principal and other senior leaders are encouraged to also participate, listen and share their experiences of faith and the Church with their communities.</p> <p>As well, when participants submit their responses to the national Plenary Council website), they are invited to save a copy of their submission for their own local records (http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/have-your-say).</p>



<p>Participant Feedback: How can local parishes and schools receive and hear the feedback that their people share and submit toward the Plenary Council? (cont'd)</p>	<p>Participants can also share their feedback with others to inspire further discussion and action in their local community (e.g. the Parish Pastoral Council, relevant ministry groups, school leadership teams, etc). As local communities of faith, there is no need to wait until 2020 to pray, discern and take local action in response to perspectives shared through your Listening and Dialogue Sessions.</p> <p>We anticipate that a qualitative analysis report of parish submissions will be made available by the national Plenary Council team in the second half of 2019.</p>
<p>Participant Feedback: How does the Diocese get feedback from parishioner or school submissions?</p>	<p>When a submission is made to the Plenary Council website (http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/have-your-say), people are asked to nominate their postcode which will assist the national Plenary Council team identify submissions by diocese.</p> <p>All dioceses will receive a monthly report from the national Plenary Council team, noting the number of responses by diocese, a brief description of the themes or topics which have been raised by the submissions in that month, and in December 2018 will receive a list of the questions that Listening and Dialogue Sessions in their diocese have raised.</p> <p>In June/July 2019, dioceses will receive a qualitative analysis report of the responses which have been received from their diocese.</p> <p>Note that two diocesan assemblies will be held in our Broken Bay Diocese, one on 24 November (at Hornsby Cathedral Parish) and one on the 1 December (at The Entrance Parish) to provide further opportunity for our sharing and listening together as one diocese.</p>
<p>Submissions: Is it possible to put in a paper submission, or is this only possible online?</p>	<p>While online submissions are preferred, it is possible to submit your views or proposals via hardcopy or paper submissions.</p> <p>The postal address is "Plenary Council 2020, PO Box 747, North Sydney, NSW, 2059" as shared on the national Plenary Council website at (http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au).</p>
<p>Submissions: By what date do submissions have to be entered online or in paper form?</p>	<p>The national Plenary Council process will receive submissions online until Ash Wednesday, 6 March 2019.</p> <p>We are asking our Broken Bay parishes to hold their Listening and Dialogue Sessions between August and October 2018 as a</p>



<p>Submissions: By what date do submissions have to be entered online or in paper form? (cont'd)</p>	<p>focused period of listening and dialogue, and submit their feedback ASAP, to ensure our voice as a Diocese enters the national discernment. It also provides us with more time as a Diocese to discern local responses to the feedback in hand.</p> <p>However, this does not exclude submissions before or after this time and we encourage communities to keep the conversation going, using the Broken Bay Listening and Dialogue Guides. Parishes are free to submit as many responses to the national Plenary Council website as they would like.</p>
<p>Local Animators: What is involved in the role of a Local Animator?</p>	<p>The role of a Local Animator is to ensure and coordinate Listening and Dialogue Sessions in their parish or school community, particularly from August to October 2018 which is our focused period of participation.</p> <p>As outlined in the Support Kit provided to all parishes at Pentecost (20 May 2018), the Local Animator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • coordinates Listening and Dialogue Sessions in their community; • distributes Plenary Council guides for local listening sessions; • leads, inspires and encourages others to lead such local sessions using these guides; • registers significant listening sessions taking place within your parish so that they can be promoted across the Diocese of Broken Bay for participation; • encourages all participants to share the feedback of their dialogue with their local Parish Pastoral Councils, school staff and teams, community leaders and social support centres for their local discernment and action; • coordinates the upload of local responses to the national Plenary Council website at http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/have-your-say (or encourages small group leaders or participants to do so themselves); • shares new information about Plenary Council 2020 as it comes to hand and serve as the primary liaison with the diocesan Plenary Council Working Group throughout 2018. <p>A parish or school may wish to bring together a large group of people together for discussion, using the Listening and Dialogue Guides provided. In this case the Local Animator, together with others, organises the session, introduces and</p>



<p>Local Animators: What is involved in the role of a Local Animator? (cont'd)</p>	<p>distributes the guides, and enables the conversation to take place.</p> <p>Alternatively, a parish or school may prefer to invite specific groups of the community (the Parish Pastoral Council, lectors, seniors, school departments, etc.) to hold their own listening sessions, providing them an explanation and the Listening and Dialogue Guides. Once these small group discussions have taken place, the relevant small group leader can submit their response to the national Plenary Council website directly.</p> <p>It is up to the Local Animator, Parish Priest or principal, and local organising team to decide how they would like to hold Listening and Dialogue sessions in their parish or school. This will shape the way in which the Local Animator supports the process.</p> <p>Step-by-step guidance for holding a Listening and Dialogue Session is provided in the “Local Animator and Facilitator Notes” provided on the August training days and available at the Broken Bay diocesan website www.bbcatholic.org.au</p>
<p>Local Animators: How much time is involved in exercising the role of Local Animator?</p>	<p>A Local Animator is asked to attend at least the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One Training Day on 3 or 4 August (9:30am-3:30pm; approx. 6 hours) - One Diocesan Assembly on 24 November (Hornsby Cathedral) or 1 December (The Entrance Parish), approx. 5 hours. - Coordinate and support their parish groups and people to engage with the Listening and Dialogue Guides that will be provided (approx. 4 hours) - Register any planned dialogues taking place within your parish (at a link provided to your Local Animator) so that they can be promoted across the Diocese of Broken Bay for participation (approx. 1 hour). <p>Therefore, in total commitment, it might ask of the Local Animator no more than 15 hours over the remainder of 2018 to fulfil the role.</p> <p>We hope Local Animators will have a passion for the renewal of the Church and enjoy this leadership role in the national journey to Plenary Council 2020.</p> <p>Practical tips and support have been provided to Local Animators at the August training days.</p>



	<p>Much of this material is also available on the diocesan website www.bbcatholic.org.au and support materials have been emailed directly to Local Animators following the training day</p>
<p>Local Animators: Will the Local Animator be required to collate responses in our community?</p>	<p>This depends on how your community would like to submit its responses to the national website. Suggestions are given in the “Local Animator and Facilitator Notes” provided at our August training days.</p> <p>If a Local Animator does choose to collect and submit responses on behalf of the entire parish or school, they require sufficient familiarity with English and technology to submit the feedback from the groups and parishioners to the national Plenary Council website, sharing faithfully what has been shared and discussed in the local community (http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/have-your-say).</p> <p>The Local Animator should not re-write, censor or change these submissions as it is important to honour the views of the people who have shared and to have these voices heard, whether the Local Animator agrees with those views or otherwise.</p> <p>In the case of a larger gathering, the parish secretary, school administrative staff, or other leaders who are well practiced at taking notes can be invited to assist, record or collate feedback of the dialogue. The Local Animator should coordinate and work with those others in the parish or school who can best serve the listening and dialogue process.</p>
<p>Local Animators: Can there be more than one Local Animator per parish or school?</p>	<p>Each parish was invited to nominate one Local Animator per community/church (e.g. three in Lower North Shore Parish) to coordinate and encourage Listening and Dialogue sessions. Each Catholic primary and secondary school in the Diocese was invited to nominate one Local Animator per community. Training was provided on the 3 & 4 August to equip Local Animators for this role and to act as a leading point of contact for the Plenary Council within our Diocese.</p> <p>We encourage Local Animators to collaborate closely with other parishioners and school leaders who may also play a leading role in facilitating sessions.</p> <p>Local Animators ‘animate’ the Listening and Dialogue Sessions but they do not have to ‘do’ or organise everything. The</p>



Local Animators: Can there be more than one Local Animator per parish or school? (cont'd)	<p>Plenary Council process encourages collaboration and co-responsibility within local communities of faith.</p> <p>Should a parish or school ultimately decide to have more Local Animators than requested, this is not a problem. These Local Animators will need to work together to ensure a coordinated approach to dialogue in the community.</p>
Local Animators: Who do I contact if I need further advice or support?	<p>Parishes, religious orders, ecclesial movements, and migrant communities should contact Pina Bernard in our Office for Evangelisation. Email: pina.bernard@bbcatholic.org.au Phone: 8379 1627</p> <p>Catholic Schools should contact Anthony Maher in our Broken Bay Catholic Schools Office. Email: anthony.maher1@dbb.catholic.edu.au Phone: 9847 0306</p> <p>We are eager to help you in any way we can!</p>

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Office for Evangelisation

Diocese of Broken Bay