



Suggestions for Facilitating Listening & Dialogue Sessions toward Plenary Council 2020 in the Parishes and Schools of the Diocese of Broken Bay

In Our Parishes

1. Invite your Parish Pastoral Council to hold a Listening and Dialogue Session among themselves, facilitated by your Local Animator or other, prior to taking it out into the parish community. This provides an opportunity to engage key leaders in the parish from the very outset, provides an experience of the session, and can spark suitable ideas for how best to take it forwards
2. Hold one or more open Listening and Dialogue Sessions for all and any parishioners who wish to attend. The Broken Bay 'Listening and Dialogue Guide' and 'Local Animator and Facilitator Notes' (both available on our diocesan website) will support you to organise such a gathering

By holding Listening and Dialogue Sessions, your parish can gather ideas and questions that can be shared with the Parish Pastoral Council towards a parish pastoral plan or other significant projects in parish life

Promotional opportunities for such sessions includes posters, the parish website and social media channels, invitations through parish databases and email lists with appropriate permissions. At Mass, participation can be invited through the parish bulletin and intercessory prayers, use of the Plenary Council prayer, or testimonies can be shared by those who have experienced a Listening and Dialogue Session or are advocates for dialogue. More ideas for parish promotion are shared on the national Plenary Council website at <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/PC2020ParishGuide.pdf>

Consider daytime or evening Listening and Dialogue Sessions on weekdays or weekends, depending on the schedules, availability and commitments of your people

3. Integrate a Listening and Dialogue Session into existing gatherings or events (e.g. parish staff retreats, ministry training days, or parish feast days)
4. Hold a Listening and Dialogue Session before or after Mass, promoting these opportunities in the weeks prior with video resources, homilies and promotion, arranging greeters to encourage participation at exits, and providing hospitality on arrival. Again, see the national Plenary Council website for ideas for parish promotion



5. Invite committees in the parish to hold Listening and Dialogue Sessions in liaison with their leaders (e.g. the parish finance, liturgy, and social justice committees). The Local Animator can meet with the leaders beforehand to explain the Listening and Dialogue Guide prior to use
6. Invite ministry groups within the parish to hold a dialogue with their respective members (e.g. mothers' or fathers' groups, prayer groups, family groups, Lenten or Advent groups, Scripture groups, St Vincent de Paul conference members, or other groups who meet in the parish)
7. The parish RCIA group can also be an ideal place to hold a Listening and Dialogue Session, drawing on the insights of those who are coming into the Church and those who are supporting them in faith. Your Local Animator or delegate can work together with the Pastoral Associate or RCIA Coordinator to bring this session about at a regular RCIA meeting, perhaps one that focuses on the community of the Church, the Holy Spirit or mission
8. Parishioners can be invited to hold Listening and Dialogue Sessions in their own homes, with other Catholics and others who may not be closely connected to the parish or Church. The Plenary Council process invites the participation of all, 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
9. Local Animators can encourage parishioners to share the link to the online survey (<http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/have-your-say>) and use the Plenary Council process as a starting point of conversation and invitation to the non-engaged. As a parish community, everyone can be invited to reach out to family and friends and invite their sharing of views, whether through a Listening and Dialogue Session or directly via the national website
10. Local newspapers may have a noticeboard or announcements section where people can advertise community events at little or no cost. Catholic retail business owners might also be willing to display posters promoting the Plenary Council in general or a local Listening and Dialogue Session taking place in your community
11. Invite parish catechists to hold a Listening and Dialogue Session, given their experience of the parish and mission to State schools. The Local Animator can work together with the appointed Parish CCD Coordinator or delegate to bring this about



12. An invitation to a parish Listening and Dialogue Session, or a link to the Plenary Council survey (<http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/have-your-say>), can be extended through the catechists' newsletter to parents in State schools, with the approval of the principal as required. Many parishes distribute a newsletter either twice or four times per year which will have information about what is taking place in the parish
13. State secondary students could be invited to participate in Listening and Dialogue Sessions being held by youth in the parish
14. Invite youth groups to hold a Listening and Dialogue Session. Please note that a youth guide is available on the national Plenary Council website, especially designed for young people, at <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Plenary-Council-Listening-and-Dialogue-Youth.pdf>
15. Coordinate with your local Catholic school to offer an invitation to parents to participate in a Listening and Dialogue Session in the parish, an opportunity to bring communities closer to one another and share their experiences
16. Invite parents who have participated in sacramental programs to parish Listening and Dialogue Sessions, including those who have presented for Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation or Reconciliation, and even those preparing for Marriage
17. If sacramental formation is taking place and timely, you may wish to incorporate a Listening and Dialogue Session for parents as part of the preparation process, perhaps in a formation session that focuses on the Holy Spirit or the life of the Church
18. Consider ways to engage social media to promote awareness of the Plenary Council in the wider community, including those who might identify as Catholic but who do not participate in the liturgical or sacramental life of the Church (we know that for every participating Catholic in Broken Bay, there are nine who do not)

In Our Schools

1. Promote the Plenary Council and your local Listening and Dialogue Sessions by holding an information session, guided by your Local Animator and/or Principal, and offered to parents, students, and staff prior to hosting sessions. Invitations to participate in a local session can be shared through school newsletters or magazines; via the principal or delegate during school assemblies. Religious Education staff can teach students about the historical significance of the Plenary Council and participation can be promoted through school social media, school Masses, principals' communication to parents explaining the Council and encouraging their participation



With Staff

2. Invite your school staff to hold a Listening and Dialogue Session during a staff Professional Development day or during an extended weekly staff meeting
3. Invite Religious Education staff to hold departmental dialogues using the 'Listening and Dialogue Guide' and 'Local Animator and Facilitator Notes' provided on the diocesan website (www.bbcatholic.org.au) and provided to your Local Animator
4. Facilitate a Listening and Dialogue Session among Year Coordinators or heads of Key Learning Areas in distinct or combined meetings
5. Integrate a Listening and Dialogue Session into a senior leadership team meeting
6. Build your Listening and Dialogue Session into the School Improvement Plan goals for mission and timetable
7. Undertake a Listening and Dialogue Session during a Professional Development day at the Catholic Schools Office for Principals, Assistant Principals, REC's, all staff departments
8. Encourage all school staff to submit an on-line response at <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/have-your-say>
9. Consider uses of Google Classroom to foster dialogue between members of the school community on the Plenary question ("What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?") and record responses toward a formal submission at <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/have-your-say>
10. Integrate a Listening and Dialogue Session into a planned staff spirituality day

With Parents

11. Invite all parents (practicing and non-practicing, Catholic and non-Catholic) to an evening Listening and Dialogue Session with a BBQ or other hospitality provided
12. Invite the local P&F Association to hold a Listening and Dialogue Session at their next meeting, supported by the Local Animator, REC or delegate
13. Engage with the regional and diocesan parent agencies to coordinate a Listening and Dialogue Session at their next gathering
14. Invite parents who contribute to the sacramental program to hold a Listening and Dialogue Session with people in their network



15. Invite groups of parents to hold their own Listening and Dialogue Sessions with the option of providing their feedback to the school for submission

With Students

16. Hold a Listening and Dialogue Session in all Religious Education classes and pastoral meetings, using the youth guide available on the national Plenary Council website at <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Plenary-Council-Listening-and-Dialogue-Youth.pdf>
17. Hold a Listening and Dialogue Session during a Year retreat
18. Invite each Year Coordinator to facilitate a Listening and Dialogue Session with students
19. Pastoral Care teams within schools might also run a Listening and Dialogue Session

Respecting your local context or circumstance, you are free to decide how you would like to structure listening and dialogue in your community. The most important thing is that people have an opportunity to share their experience and insight toward the future of our Church.

Thank you for supporting the faith of our Diocese of Broken Bay as we share our voice toward Plenary Council 2020.

