



SENSE OF THE FAITHFUL NEWSLETTER NO 8

A group of parishes from Melbourne and beyond are sponsoring the Sense of the Faithful website to facilitate discussions between parishes in Australia on the key issues facing the Church, and articulate and promote via a consultative process a shared view across parishes, to the extent to which such a shared view exists. Sense of the Faithful invites all involved in the life of the Church, in their parish or in other ways, to join in a conversation to contribute to effective change.

We have added to the website [here](#) the details of each of the members of our Sense of the Faithful editorial committee.

Our main addition to the Sense of the Faithful website, as a conversation opener, is [Fifth Plenary Council of Australia: A Call for Agenda Development](#). The document aims to respond to the PC Agenda's call for 'concrete proposals to create a more missionary, Christ-centred Church in Australia'. Our team effort uses only two questions from the list of six questions for each topic listed in the official PC Agenda. Our purpose is to illustrate what we think is needed to help the PC achieve real results. We hope others will take up the task of developing 'concrete proposals' for these and the remaining questions.

We are asking the PC Secretariat to circulate our paper to the PC Members.

We would welcome your response via the website to the document in terms of the suggestions we have made. We would also like to hear of other proposals that you want to highlight for consideration by the Plenary Council.

Other additions to the website are:

On the resources webpage, under the 'Plenary Council 2020' heading, we would like to add two items: ['My hope for the Plenary Council'](#) By Bishop Vincent Long and [Professor Gabrielle McMullen's response](#) to Bishop Vincent's 2021 Helder Camara Lecture.

On the 'Cry of the Earth' webpage we added the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) [Social Justice Statement 2021-22: Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor](#).

On the 'Key Issues' webpage we have added a link to the Flashes of Insight conversation on synodality and how it relates to the Plenary Council, available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XxrwOnYBk8g>

On the webpage 'Role of Women', we have added an [article by PC Member, Dr Nimmi Candappa](#).

Finally, included in this newsletter is a link to a five-page extract from the 2020 book of Pope Francis: ['Lets Us Dream: the Path to a Better Future'](#) (Simon & Schuster, London). In this discussion of synodality, Francis outlines how he sees the process of agreement can emerge from opposing positions held by synod participants. We hope to explain further soon how this process could and should apply to how the Plenary Council is conducted.