

Plenary Council 2020 - Theme 4

Humble, Healing & Merciful

We believe that our Church can be more Christ-centred - humble, healing and merciful - especially for those who are in the many forms of darkness, through

1. Listening selflessly, without judgment, and negotiating wisely; respecting different points of view as an enlightened impetus to change, growth and peace within our church. Christ welcomes all to sit at his table.
2. Forming parishes that are accepting and understanding differences. Welcoming those who have been ostracised.
3. Holding in each diocese in Lent an annual Liturgy of Lament, for the communal sins and failures of our Church, which include our failures in child protection but are not limited to this one focus and encompass other communal failures in living the Gospel.
4. Evangelization through service to the Australian community, rather than through scolding homilies, including:
 - a. active encouragement and continuing support for grass-roots initiatives of care for the vulnerable and marginalised;
 - b. developing means to communicate the good news stories of Church actions that are caring, healing and merciful.
5. Leaders who live lives of interior humility:
 - a. listening to others, seeking the wisdom that is within the community, including prophetic voices.
 - b. setting aside trappings of power and position, such as items of dress, ceremonial customs, titles and honorifics that reflect a bygone age of privilege and elitism.
6. Commitment to the healing of creation around us, through concrete caring choices that are active and visible. God's love for the world has existed since the beginning of time and permeates everything in creation.