

## **RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PLENARY COUNCIL FOR ACTION**

### ***How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is Inclusive, Participatory and Synodal?***

#### **For our Australian Church**

- The participants in the Plenary Council, for its reflections, considerations and voting, should be drawn from a broad representation of our Church members.
- In the future, regarding issues of doctrine which may develop and change over time, we believe that lay people should be involved in these deliberations along with members of the clergy.
- We believe that there should be a review and change to the training and formation of those wishing to enter the clergy and the religious life. We believe that they should not be trained as an 'elite in the Church, seen to be 'special' and separate, which perpetuates clericalism. We believe that they need to be one with the people. They need to have a deep and true understanding of the Gospels so that this may be conveyed in a meaningful way to the people they work with and for.
- We believe that support should be provided for current members of the clergy and religious life following the upheaval and challenges that have occurred in the Church, so that they may be able to confidently reaffirm their leadership roles.
- We believe that an increased role in leadership and positions of authority for women in the Church hierarchy should be actively promoted and implemented.
- There were mixed views in the group as to whether women should be allowed to become priests.
- We believe that there should be greater connection to and inclusion of indigenous people in liturgy and Church practices, and a recognition of and respect for their spirituality.
- We believe that there should be a truly Christian approach to all people, particularly welcoming those who have been marginalised over time, especially those excluded due to their sexuality.
- We believe that the Catholic Church should actively develop stronger relationships with other religions, while respecting the beliefs and practices of all traditions.

### Local actions for the parish of St Thomas the Apostle

- In order to learn more about the needs of young people, we believe that there should be a survey of this group to allow them to communicate what they want from their Church.
- We believe that we need to more actively and effectively promote and publicise the good work being currently carried out throughout the parish.
- We recommend consideration of how to more effectively advertise and promote the good work and activities in the parish through a review of the use the internet and parish website and the noticeboards in the Gathering Space and other methods identified.
- We recommend that our parish actively develop stronger relationships with local churches, with a particular focus on working on social justice issues together.