

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PLENARY COUNCIL FOR ACTION

How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is joyful, hope-filled and servant community?

For our Church throughout the world

- If the Church is to become a joyful, hope-filled and servant community, we must publicly apologise for the atrocities committed by members of the clergy against children and adults. Rather than seeking to protect the institution of the Church, we must accept responsibility for the impact of these atrocities on victims/survivors and their families. This apology should also include the actions of those who were complicit in the abuse and said and did nothing to protect these people.

We recommend that a Mass of Atonement is celebrated on the same day in every parish throughout the world. The international Catholic community has been greatly affected by the revelations of historical and current clerical abuse in the Church. This apology and Mass may assist in the acknowledgement of the grief and loss experienced by many Catholics and provide a path toward global healing and a unified restoration of our faith and our purpose as Christians.

It is important that a clear explanation of the nature of the Mass of Atonement be publicised broadly and extensively in advance of the day.

For our Australian Church

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- We recommend that Plenary Council 2020 finds a way to acknowledge the faith and good conscience of non-Catholic Christians who wish to participate in the Holy Eucharist. We believe that the Church should welcome them to the Sacrament without the need to become Catholic.
- Following Jesus' example as leader and teacher, we recommend that the Church rediscovers its role as a social conscience of society through more effective and impactful use of its public voice, reflecting and commenting on governmental policies and decisions that affect all permanent and temporary residents of Australia.
- We recommend that the Church provides greater awareness of social justice issues by welcoming and accepting asylum seekers and refugees into our Catholic and broader communities and advocating for them to the government of the day, all members of Parliament and the general community.
- We recommend that the Church explains and promotes awareness of its missionary role in society and develops more efficient social justice formation and structures.

Local actions for the parish of St Thomas the Apostle

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We recommend that a Mass of Atonement is celebrated on the same day in our parish in conjunction with parishes in our region and throughout the world. The Catholic community has been greatly affected by the revelations of historical and current clerical abuse in the Church. This

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- We recommend that a letter be sent to our four priests from our parish and school community that acknowledges the pain they may have felt with the revelations of extensive and systemic sexual abuse by other members of the clergy. This letter will state the appreciation of and support for the great pastoral work being undertaken by them, and all parishioners and staff and parents of the parish school will be invited to sign the letter.
- We recommend that the parish establish an annual commitment ceremony, which may be part of a Mass, whereby the priests and parishioners commit themselves to their faith, to the support of all members of the parish community, and to the pastoral and social justice work of the parish.
- We recommend that our Parish redevelops stronger links with our parish school generally, and more specifically by re-introducing letters to children about to receive the Sacraments for the first time.
- We recommend that our parish encourages more awareness of and action relating to social justice issues generally, for all those in need regardless of religion, and specifically in the following areas:
 - Develop stronger links with the social justice groups of our sister parishes, Sacred Heart and St Mary's.
 - Develop stronger links with the social justice groups of other parishes in the Diamond Valley Deanery.
 - Provide more publicity of our current development aid projects, currently at 3% of our Sacrificial Offerings, and encourage feedback on alternative projects.
 - Conduct a membership drive for our Parish Social Justice Group.