

Engaging Together: Sharing ideas, seeking wisdom, making plans, committing to act



In this Engaging Together session you have the space to share ideas, seek wisdom, make plans and commit to act. 'Each person in a chair is a leader' and the importance of your voice and deep listening as a leader is critical. A facilitator will guide you through the process and your workbook is designed to help you navigate your ideas.

The session themes below emerged from the communal wisdom of the thousands of people who shared in the listening, dialogue and discernment over recent years for the Plenary Council, the various diocesan and community gatherings and the Synod 2023. You are invited to consider each theme area and chose the one you would like to focus on and attend.

Wednesday May 3, 2.00pm

Reconciliation – Healing Wounds, Receiving Gifts

Ionic Room, Ground Floor

If you are interested in reconciliation this session is for you.

Australia's first peoples have been wounded by State and Church. It takes time and honesty to connect and rebuild trust, to reconcile and heal wounds. Whether you are seeking a pathway forward, or taking steps towards reconciliation, or you've discovered a new opportunity, this session invites you to share your story, and collaboratively nurture ideas for what could be next steps for you, your community or your organisation toward reconciliation.

Choosing Repentance – Seeking Healing

Doric Room, Ground Floor

If you are interested in healing and safeguarding this session is for you.

As Christian people, communities and organisations we have expressed profound sorrow and apologise for the sin of institutional abuse. Repentance calls for a desire to change and if we are truly seeking to move forward, seeking healing from wounds for this and other forms of abusive behaviour, then collaboration, trust and an orientation toward the light of truth-telling must be at the core of all that we do. This session will provide an opportunity to share your story, and collaboratively nurture ideas for what could be next steps for you, your community or your organisation toward transformative repentance.

Called by Christ – Sent forth as Missionary Disciples

Northcott Room, Level 4

If you're interested in mission for those on the margins, this session is for you.

Living and leading as Missionary Disciples, propels us into action, to share in Jesus' mission and grow as a community. We are sent forth by the Gospel to accompany those on the margins, to be places of welcome, hospitality and welcome – to develop cultures of inclusion in the structures and policies of our communities and organisations with a commitment to co-responsibility and collaboration. In our Church and secular cultures, this can be a difficult thing to do. This session will provide an opportunity to share your story, and collaboratively nurture ideas for what could be next steps for you, your community or your organisation to respond to the Gospel's call and lead mission today.

Witness to the equal dignity of Women and Men

Remington Room, Level 4

If you're interested in Inclusivity and Equality, this session is for you.

We are challenged to reconcile the historical experience of inequality and intentionally rebalance the structural and policy impediments to equality and dignity of Women and Men. To do this we must embrace the gifts and experience of women into all areas of our organisations, faith-practice and life and actively redress this imbalance. This session will provide an opportunity to share your story, and collaboratively nurture ideas for what could be next steps to respond to the Gospel's call to be witness to the equal dignity of Women and Men in your community or organisation today.

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Thursday May 4, 2.00pm

Communion in Grace: Sacrament to the World

Doric Room, Ground Floor

If you're interested in Prayer, Liturgy and Sacraments, this session is for you.

The Church is "like a sacrament", a sign and instrument of union with God and the unit of the whole human race (Vatican II, Lumen Gentium n1). Key to this sacramentality is finding ways of preaching with fresh energy, connection and relevance, exploring prayer and liturgical expression through language, music and artistry and re-energising parishes and programs of sacramental formation. This session will provide an opportunity to share your story, and collaboratively nurture ideas for what could be next steps to respond to the invitation to be 'sacrament to the world' in your community or organisation today.

Formation and Leadership for Mission and Ministry

Northcott Room, Level 4

If you're interested in Formation, this session is for you.

Formation is the journey of learning and growing in heart, mind and spirit and in our contemporary landscape it calls for creative, multi-dimensional, integrated and experiential models and methods of learning. Formation is an area of growth and focus across all areas of our life and church. This session will provide an opportunity to share your story, and collaboratively nurture ideas for what could be next steps for you, your community or your organisation in the area of Formation and Leadership for Mission and Ministry.

At the Service of Communion, Participation and Mission: Governance

Remington Room, Level 4

If you are interested in Governance, this session is for you.

Greater transparency in decision making across all church settings and structures enables co-responsibility, cross-sector collaboration, and shared roles to be taken in the governance of Church, mission and ministry. Synodality is a constitutive element of the Church, integral to discernment of the contemporary call of the Gospel. This session will provide an opportunity to share your story, and collaboratively nurture ideas for what could be fruitful next steps for you, your community or your organisation in the area of Governance at the service of communion, participation and mission.

Integral Ecology and Conversion for the sake of Our Common Home

Ionic Room, Ground Floor

If you're interested in Ecology, this session is for you.

There is an urgent call to care for our Common Home, to take an integral approach to the economic, social and ecological issues and live our baptismal mission to love for all of creation. Responding to this call, requires formation and change in both personal and communal practice and policy of individuals and communities on their journey of ecological conversion. This session will provide an opportunity to share your story, and collaboratively nurture ideas for what could be next steps for you, your community or your organisation in the area of integral ecology and conversion for the sake of our Common Home.