



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER ISSUE #5 AUGUST 2018

FOR ST MICHAEL'S PARISH COMPRISING:

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH BERRY
SACRED HEART CHURCH BOMADERRY
OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CULBURRA
ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH KANGAROO VALLEY
ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH NOWRA
HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH VINCENTIA



ALPHA

Our first Alpha concluded with a celebration dinner on the 30th July for all those involved in the Alpha course that ran in our Parish in Term 2. It was a great night to celebrate the journey that we had been on together and to also thank all those who made Alpha possible, including the team, but also those who were involved in catering for Alpha.

For 10 weeks, Alpha provided a space to ponder and to share our personal faith journey and at the celebration dinner, it was wonderful to hear how our work in running Alpha impacted the lives of our guests. Some spoke of the welcome and warmth that they received in our Church community. Some spoke of the depth of the small group discussions and how it impacted them. Testimonies of shedding spiritual baggage and past hurts and re-joining our faith community left everyone moved and grateful for being a part of Alpha.

Alpha has been used as a successful tool in forming disciples and changing the culture of parishes across the world. Even for those who are regular churchgoers, Alpha can provide a space for a transformational encounter with Jesus. We are looking forward to running our next Alpha early in 2019 and hope that it will be an ongoing program of outreach and of forming disciples.

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

Many of you have heard that plenary 2020 is coming. What does that mean? Plenary council 2020 presents for us, as Catholics, the opportunity to ask a very simple question —what is the holy spirit asking us today? Many would quite rightly describe this time as one of upheaval and uncertainty. As people of faith, we trust even in the midst of such change that the holy spirit is powerfully at work moving and doing new things in the hearts and minds of the faithful.

Plenary Council 2020 is a cause for great excitement and one that we must enter into full of trust in God's guiding hand. We have much to plan and organise along this journey, and that will happen in an ongoing way in the weeks and months ahead. It is important to note though: no matter how well we plan, this process will be "messy" at times, and necessarily so, because it deals with both the human and the divine. It will thus require patience and

humility if we are to be led by the Spirit in honest and respectful dialogue. It requires us to sincerely pray with, and for, each other as we open ourselves to this process of expressing our loves, disappointments, hurts and hopes for who we are as Church. Together, let's see what the Holy Spirit is saying to us.

Taken from the Most Rev Brian G Mascord DD Bishop of Wollongong, letter dated 26 July 2018.



CELEBRATION OF CULTURES MASS

Bomaderry Sacred Heart church will be hosting a 'Celebration of Cultures Mass' at the 9:30am Sunday Mass on 21st October 2018. All Parishioners are invited to come together and celebrate the many different cultures in our Parish community.

All ages are invited to come in traditional dress.

Following Mass, come along and share your music, food and stories. If you can, please bring a plate, to share, of finger food from your culture. Enquiries to Carmen Gauci 0403686536



SAVE THE DATES

27th September – First local Plenary 2020 session

20th October – CWL Significant Wedding Anniversary Mass and Lunch

21st October – Celebration of Cultures Mass

11th November – St Michael's School Fete

25th November – Sacrament of First Holy Communion



Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost. Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land.

*O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia
and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council.*

*Give us the grace to see your face in one another
and to recognise Jesus, our companion on the road.*

Give us the courage to tell our stories and to speak boldly of your truth.

*Give us ears to listen humbly to each other
and a discerning heart to hear what you are saying.*

*Lead your Church into a hope-filled future,
that we may live the joy of the Gospel.*

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, bread for the journey from age to age.

The PPC meets quarterly. The next meeting: 15th November 2018

All are welcome to contact us through office@nowraparish.org.au