



**Pastoral
Discernment**
Central Coast

Dialogue with Others

Dialogue requires perseverance and patience to enable mutual understanding

As we journey forward together, we are invited to consider,

How is God calling the people of the Central Coast to journey forward together as pilgrim and missionary people of God?

This is a process of community discernment, as such, we are called to work together as a group. The process you are going to engage with today is built upon the practice of Spiritual Discernment. It is a process of prayer, contemplation, sharing with one another and seeking God's direction and we invite the Holy Spirit to guide us. All are welcome to participate and discern together.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Darkinjung and Awabakal peoples as the Traditional Owners of this ancient land. We acknowledge that God has been walking with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, making His Presence known through a continuous living culture over many thousands of years. We pray and give thanks for these ancient peoples who have enriched and sustained our continent over all that time. We praise God for the people who nurtured the land that we call home.

An invitation to pray together.

Invite a member of your small group to read the scripture reading.

Luke 24 13-15

That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them.

Read full chapter

Allow 2 minutes of silence and re-read the scripture quote again.

Allow 5 minutes of silence and invite each group member to reflect on the words that they heard and reflect on the question; How is God speaking with you in this?

You may choose to listen and reflect on this song before you begin your listening and dialogue rounds.

The Spirit and the Bride by Matt Maher
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k_OfB2mZdfA










What does this theme mean for the people of the community?

This theme invites us to reflect and discern ways that we dialogue with others and ways that we invite others to join us in dialogue. We learn through Luke's Gospel that Christ is present with us and guides us as we dialogue together. When we dialogue with others, making God present, we enable others to walk also with Christ. Sharing our faith through dialogue we are living in the presence of God, we enable God to be present with others and with those that we walk with.

Jesus, as our model and inspiration for dialogue, connected with people's thoughts and feelings. He understood that new ideas need to relate to the ideals of a community if they were to move forward. Jesus gave us many examples of how we can be inclusive in our dialogue as we walk and journey together.

In our community, how do we create opportunities to have conversations with others, enabling opportunities to make God present in our own, and other people's lives?

Guiding questions:

-  How can we as members of our faith community, include others in this dialogue so that all come to know and love Christ.
-  Can you think of times when we have needed to provide opportunities for those on the periphery to be included in the dialogue, so that all voices are heard?
-  To what extent do diverse peoples in our community on the Central Coast come together in dialogue?
-  What are the places and means to dialogue within our community?
-  How do we promote collaboration with religious communities, lay associations and movements, schools, CatholicCare, neighbouring dioceses, etc., in faithfulness to our mission?
-  What do we share and how do we journey together?
-  What particular issues in our community and the Central Coast community do we need to pay more attention to?
-  What experiences of dialogue and collaboration do we have with believers of other religions and with those who have no religious affiliation?
-  How might we dialogue with and learn from other sectors of the Central Coast: the spheres of politics, economics, culture, civil society, and people who live in poverty?

After prayerful discernment, begin the listening and dialogue rounds with your small group.

