



Listening

Having an open heart and mind to hear what others are saying.

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.

Proverbs 2:2

Making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding;

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? scripture?

You may choose to listen to either of these songs before you begin your listening and dialogue rounds.

Listen to the Spirit by Fr Rob Galea <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1iGPFNoZTHc>

OR

Fall Afresh by Bethel Music <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8VdXLM8H-xU>

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

This theme invites us to reflect on ways that we listen, listen to each other and listen to what God is asking and inviting us to do?

We learn through Proverbs 2:2, that by listening deeply to others enables us to grow into a closer relationship with God. We are invited to reflect through this theme ways that we are listening to each other and ways that we invite those around us to be involved in opportunities to listen, to also grow in faith and into a closer relationship with God.

We are invited to open our hearts and minds to listen deeply to others, to hear what others are saying to us. We are invited to think about times when we have not listened to those we should have and asked to think about why we haven't been as attentive as we've needed to be. What are barriers that have stopped us from being attentive to others? What action may I, or we as a community, take to listen to each other more deeply and authentically.

God speaks to us through the voice of others, as you reflect on this theme, you are invited to be open to what God is saying to you, through the voice of others, and those that we sometimes forget or ignore.

Guiding Questions.



How can we as a community open our hearts and minds to listen to God more fully?



How is God speaking to us through voices we sometimes ignore?



How are people listened to, especially women and young people?



How well do we listen to those on the peripheries?



What space is there for the voice of minorities, especially people who have experienced poverty, marginalisation, or social exclusion?



How can we involve listening opportunities that include all those in our community and beyond?

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

