



**Pastoral
Discernment**
Central Coast

Sharing the story

Allowing all to express themselves, to be heard,
and to speak with authentic courage.

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.

Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

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 play this song before you begin your listening and dialogue rounds.

O Come to the Altar by Elevation Worship
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4JpxiUkiWV0>

What does this theme mean for the people in our community?

This theme invites us to listen to each other and provide opportunities for each to share their story. We have many people in our community that have gifts that nourish us in our communities' missionary journey by listening to the story of others and those that share this story through the Good News. How do we empower all voices in our community to feel safe and be heard, so that the gift of the Holy Spirit is realised through our listening? You never know who else might be listening and how the Holy Spirit will work once you simply open the door. God is listening, even when no one else is.

We learn through St Paul, in his letter to the Romans 11-12, "For I am longing to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you – or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine". Each of us are important to God and have a story to share, sharing the story enables others to hear of how God is at work in and through our community.

As a community, how do we find opportunities and provide people with permission and confidence to share their story and the Good News with others?

Guiding questions.



What enables or hinders speaking up courageously, candidly and responsibly in our community of the Central Coast and society?



When and how do we manage to say what is important to us?



How do we provide opportunities that allow others to share their story with us?

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

Review

Reflect

Respond