



Proposal from members

54 Support for the Australian Roman Catholic Church 2020 Plenary Council

That the Assembly resolve:

- (a) To stand in prayerful solidarity with the Australian Roman Catholic Church as its people enter into a formal period of preparation for the 2020 Plenary Council, the first such gathering for about 80 years, and the first local Catholic Church in the world to heed the encouragement of Pope Francis for a more synodal approach to church decision-making.
- (b) To call on God's Spirit to accompany them during this period, as they listen to the promptings of the Spirit and seek to discern what God is calling them to, as a Church for the future.
- (c) To ask congregations to join in this time of prayer for God's wisdom and openness to be with us all and especially with the bishops and lay leaders of the Roman Catholic church, and encourage them to exchange a symbolic gift of prayerful ecumenical solidarity (for example, a candle to be lit in worship services to focus prayer for their fellow Christians) with a Roman Catholic Congregation in their neighbourhood during their period of preparation.

Proposer: Sandy Boyce

Seconder: Jeff Telfer

Rationale:

At Pentecost this year, the Roman Catholic Church in Australia enters a formal period of preparation for the 2020 Plenary Council. This is an important moment in the life of the Roman Catholic Church – the first gathering in about 80 years, and the first local Catholic Church in the western world to heed the encouragement of Pope Francis for a more synodal approach to church decision-making. The Plenary Council will meet in Adelaide.

We believe it would be an appropriate act of receptive ecumenism for the Uniting Church in Australia to be in prayerful solidarity with the bishops and all the lay faithful of the Australian Catholic Church at this sacred time.

It is appropriate at this time in the Assembly agenda for our branch of the Church Universal to join in prayer for the Australian Catholic Church as they make prayerful preparation for this significant event. It is appropriate for our Church to call on God's Spirit to accompany them during this period, as they listen to the promptings of the Spirit and seek to discern what God is calling them to, as a Church for the future.