



Closing prayer

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be
world without end.

Amen.



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE

LISTENING TO THE SPIRIT

Growing Viable Parishes

PARTICIPANT GUIDE



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE



Gathering prayer

Come Holy Spirit
Fill the hearts of your faithful
and enkindle in us the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit
and we shall be created
and you shall renew the face of the earth.

Amen.



Spiritual Conversations

Spiritual conversations take place over **three** rounds. In the first two rounds there is no discussion, comment, or crosstalk. It is a time of deep listening and sharing of personal reflections.

The structure is as follows:

ROUND ONE

- Take time to read the scripture or definition, for reflection. (10 minutes).
 - What words or phrases are you drawn to and why?
- Sharing and listening (2-3 minutes per person).
 - In my reflection today ...
 - I feel ...

ROUND TWO

- Reflect on what has been said so far (5 minutes).
 - What resonated, challenged, surprised, or struck you in the sharing you just heard?
- Sharing and listening, this time focussing upon what resonated with us from what was said previously (2-3 minutes per person).
 - I have heard ...
 - It leaves me feeling ...

ROUND THREE

- Reflect on any of the themes, but especially the divergences and convergences (5 minutes).
 - Was there a common theme emerging?
 - Might the Holy Spirit be encouraging, enlightening, or calling you in some way?
- Unstructured sharing, listening, and discussing any common themes or ideas that emerged, or any divergences (10 minutes approx.).



Scripture for reflection

Matthew 6: 19-21

Do not store up treasures for yourselves on earth, where moth and woodworm destroy and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures for yourselves in heaven, where neither moth nor woodworm destroys and thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be too.

Definition for reflection

Viable parishes have the financial, people, and property resources for their shared missionary vision, and can mobilise them effectively. They have sufficient income streams to grow their mission, providing and maintaining buildings to support the needs of their ministries.

Their diverse sources of income allow the sustainable service of their local communities. They are open to sharing their spiritual, ministerial, and material resources with others for the building of God's kingdom.