



## 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 Vibrant 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

### Acts 2: 42-47

They remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. And everyone was filled with awe; many signs and miracles were done through the apostles.

And all the believers were united and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and divided the proceeds to all according to what each one needed. Each day, with one heart, they went faithfully to the Temple but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they ate their share of food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and approved by all the people.

Day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

## Definition for reflection

**Vibrant parishes** are life-giving communities that foster holiness and discipleship among their members, joyfully desiring to share the gift of faith in Jesus Christ with those they encounter.

Understanding each person is uniquely called and gifted, vibrant parishes help form and equip them to live that call. They know people are searching for a deeper spiritual connection in their lives, where their hopes, joys and anxieties can be expressed, and they embrace new opportunities for service.