

More News from our Recent Deanery Meeting

. From our meeting we are heralding two further initiatives :

- A) **The Epiphany pilgrimage** held each January when pilgrims walk from Emu Plains to Bell. **This is a journey that has the potential to open “minds and hearts to a deeper knowing of God in creation”**



Epiphany Pilgrimage 2021

With immersion into the Blue Mountains bush we can also welcome the stranger into our communities and help to give them the opportunity to experience “the deep connection between the land and the Spirit”

Through the Epiphany Pilgrimage we have a chance to invite some of the many “ hikers that visit the mountains annually onto our church grounds” and give them an experience of Christian hospitality.

It is an opportunity for the Catholic Parish Communities to engage in outreach.

From Epiphany Pilgrimage flyer and the photo from Epiphany pilgrimage website

We know individuals already volunteer to provide hospitality at all the parishes within the deanery but the organisers are inviting like-minded people to join them in promoting, refining and discerning the future of this powerful experience.

We will discuss this initiative at our next Deanery Council meeting

- B) The Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement "**Cry of the Poor, Cry of the Earth**" which was launched on August 5th. This document contains profound challenges and invites real responsibility from each of us. The deanery vision is for a network of animators across the deanery to bring this document to life in the Mountains. Given that our Diocese now has a "Peace, Justice and Ecology" team and that 30 of the Blue Mountains parishioners self-nominated for either the Social Justice or Laudate Si workshops it seems that the Spirit is calling us to put the theory into practice.



C. Another ongoing action at our least deanery meeting involved the upcoming Plenary Council to be held in October. The deaneries in the diocese were asked to submit their responses to the recently published “Agenda” for the Plenary Council. As the Blue Mountains Deanery we have co-ordinated a number of dialogue groups and discernment groups within the Blue Mountains over the last three years. This collated Blue Mountains Deanery response has now been submitted to the Plenary Council. We ask for your prayers as this process is reaching an important highpoint for the Catholic Church in Australia.

Photo from Cry of the Earth Cry of the Poor

If you feel called to take an active role in either of these initiatives please email either parish office. Thanks.

Kim Crawford & Vic O'Callaghan (St Thomas Aquinas reps)
and Carol Teodori and Maureen Ryan (Our Lady of Nativity reps)