



The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council

Liturgy Team Message

This year the Liturgy Team invites celebrants and liturgy groups across the nation to celebrate National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday 2009 with the support and guidance of this booklet.

We strongly urge protocol and practice of both local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and Christian traditions be respected. Where possible we advocate the importance of inviting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to participate in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Liturgy.

Where non-Indigenous people are the only participants in the preparation of liturgy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday we encourage the use of suggested prayers prepared by the NATSICC Liturgy Team.

The Readings and Message of the Gospel was made clear to the Liturgy Team in following the 'spirit of our ancestors'. We were guided by the spirit tracks of the animals knowing the Creator Spirit is with us in all creation; and no matter the natural nor man made disasters experienced, there is wonder in the life we lead; where community pull together and people come to help, of stories of miraculous survival and the continued custodianship and care for the land by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples - restore all things back to their natural beauty and quietness – where in the stillness the Creator Spirit renews us; and shows us Jesus love, mercy and authority over us.

We encourage Catechists, School and Parish Staff to work with the Children on the suggested Children's activities; and encourage their adaptation for young people. It is hoped the activity, which is included as part of these resources, will be a fun way for children and young people to express their faith.

NATSICC welcome photos of finished work which we may publish in the NATSICC News and/or on the NATSICC website.

We would like to thank Fr Peter Williams, NATSICC Chairperson Elsie Heiss, NATSICC Councilors and National Administrator Craig Arthur.

NATSICC Liturgy Team

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AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

National Office for Liturgy

Archbishop Mark Coleridge (Chairman)
Archbishop Denis Hart
Bishop Max Davis
Bishop Kevin Manning

27 May 2009

One of the most compelling images that remain in my mind after World Youth Day in Sydney last July took place during the Vigil at Randwick the night before the Papal Mass. Before an estimated crowd that evening of 250,000 young people from Australia and around the world a young Aboriginal “hero” woman received the lighted candle from the Holy Father that then was spread throughout the entire crowd of pilgrims. It was an amazing experience to see that light gradually make its way to every pilgrim. It is a reminder to us in the Catholic community that the Light of Christ still needs to enlighten the hearts and minds of many who live in this nation, and all of us have a responsibility to spread that light wherever we find ourselves. As we observe National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday this year we are mindful that the indigenous people who are Catholic Christians have their own unique way of giving witness to the Light of Christ in their lives, and also have much to share with the non-indigenous community in Australia. As in the past there are various options provided here depending upon the makeup of the Assembly for the Mass on Sunday 5 July. It is important that these texts be respected and used appropriately as they owe their origin to various Catholic indigenous communities around Australia. Our liturgical celebrations should always be an authentic expression of the local Church and indigenous peoples are rightly sensitive to mere tokenism in respect to celebrations that acknowledge their presence (or lack thereof!) I commend to you this liturgical resource and encourage you to use this National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday as a time to remember with gratitude in the Eucharist the concerns of our indigenous brothers and sisters.

Fr Peter G. Williams
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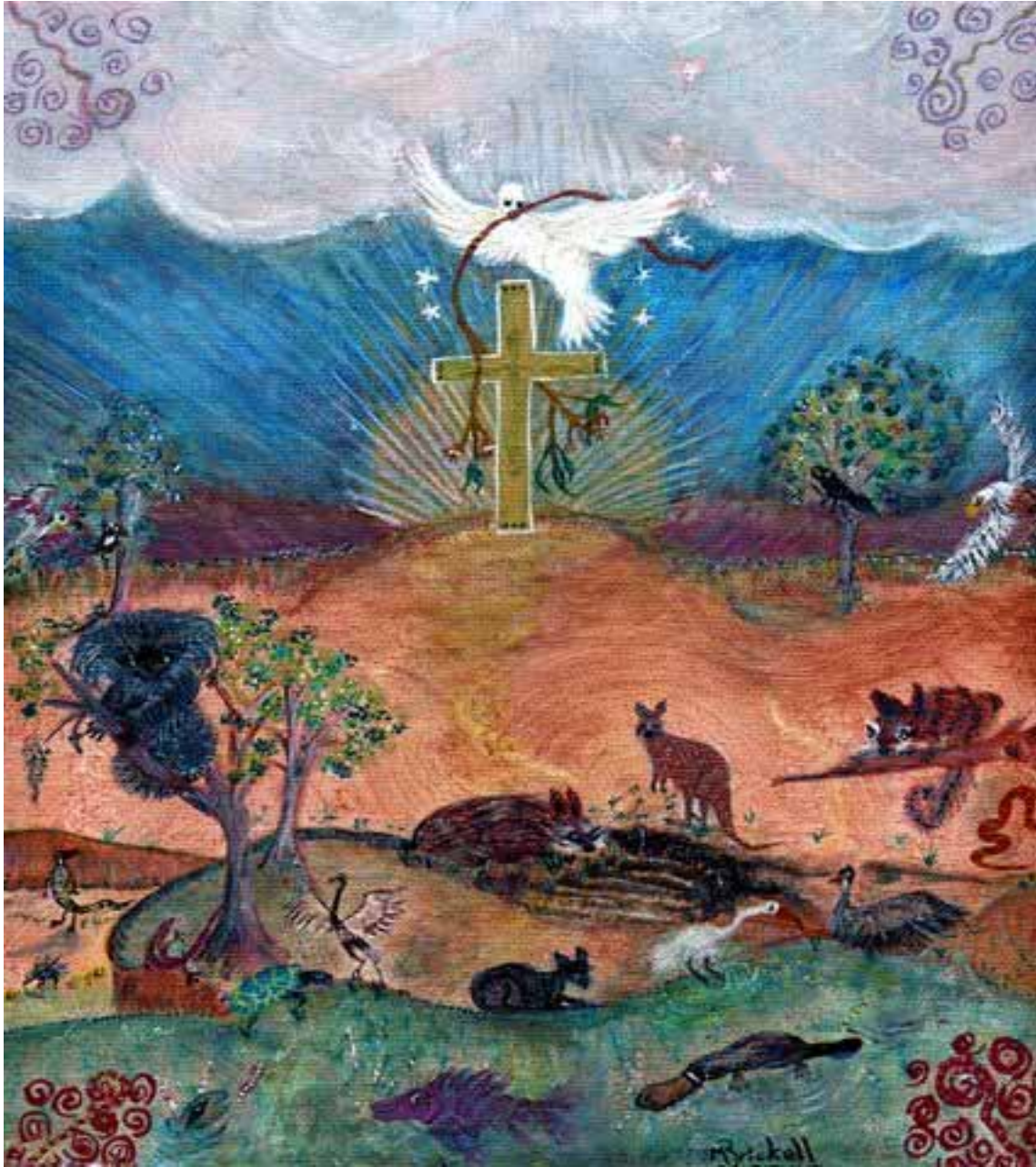
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National Aboriginal And Torres Strait Islander Sunday
5 July 2009



Spirit of our Ancestors

2nd Decade of Indigenous People | Int'l Decade for a Culture of Peace | 14th Sunday in Ordinary time Year B

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**National Aboriginal
And Torres Strait Islander Sunday
5th July 2009
Spirit of our Ancestors**



Welcome

Today is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday, a day that has been celebrating for 65 years. We acknowledge the deeply religious and spiritual traditions of our ancestors with respect. It is also the beginning of a week of celebrations throughout the nation where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people celebrate their spirituality, identity, culture and survival. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday is the start of National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee or NAIDOC week where we are all welcome to join in the activities and celebrations.

A Welcome to Country by an Aboriginal Elder

ALTERNATE Acknowledgement of Country by Celebrant in the Introductory Rite.

Entrance Processional: May be accompanied by a Didgeridoo

Entrance Hymn: One People one Land

There is a Land, an ancient land
It bears a vast and rugged face.
Its spirits deep, haunting and free.
It calls to you, it calls to me.
Come find your soul within my depths.
Come make of me your homeland true.

**This is our land, we are it people.
A nation's that's free to realize its dream.
A dream that's for all that dwell in its land.
To live as one people –One people One land**

There is a people, an ancient people
Their spirits rest deep in this land.
Their Dreamtime myth, story and faith,
Make this land a sacred place
They seek of all a true embrace,
That reconciles all that we are.

And from distant shores many have come
To find their home in this great southern land
Where the Spirit yearns and seeks to unite us all.

Alternate Entrance Hymn: Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the living God
Fall afresh on me
Spirit of the living God
Fall afresh on me
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me,
Spirit of the living God
Fall afresh on me.

Penitential Rite

A Rite of Water Blessing: It is customary in some areas, when Aboriginal people gather for important ceremonies to use water. Water containers can be a large shell or coolamon and a small branch from an appropriate native tree can be used to sprinkle the water. Please collaborate with your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander group to ensure this rite of water blessing is appropriate. Alternatively water can be used according to the rite of sprinkling in the Roman Missal.

ALTERNATE

A Rite of Smoking: traditionally celebrated by Aboriginal people. Since the beginning of time our ancestors used to smoke away evil spirits and receive the good spirit. We acknowledge Aboriginal Elders to lead Smoking Ceremony. Today we share with you one of the oldest living ceremonies, to remove our sins and ask for forgiveness. We invite you now to share our smoking ceremony like our ancestors have done for thousands of years.

Non-Indigenous Congregations:

Reader: Water to Aboriginal people is always a sign of God's peace and fulfillment in everything that is good; the promise of food, of harmony with ourselves, and the bush around us.

ALTERNATE

Reader: Fire is important to Aboriginal people and is the heart of Indigenous culture. It is the sign of the Holy Spirit that gives warmth, purifies, and brings many gifts.

For congregations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people present:

Lord, make us feel your invitation to 'come to the water'. At the very beginning you blessed the water, your great gift to us, and now we ask that your blessing be renewed in this water here today. We ask that through this water blessing we will all be renewed with your love, and protection, and your power to love one another as true Christians. Lord, this truly is a sign of the new life in Christ, which in Baptism we have all received.

We ask this through Jesus the Wise One.

All: Amen

Opening Prayer



Congregations: see Roman Missal for the Day

Congregations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people present:

NATSICC Jubilee Prayer (to be read by an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Person)

Father, Our Creator
You created all things seen and unseen
Listen to my silent prayers as I stand here before you
As my weary eyes look back over distant horizons,
Back to those days where my people walked.
The footprints of my Grandfathers are imprinted on the earth,
And the images become real to me.

I see my Grandfathers standing tall and strong,
Warriors of long ago.
I hear them singing.
I see them dancing,
And my Spirit moves within me.

They told of the emus fighting,
And the kangaroos picking up the scent of our hunters.
The images fade away as I feel the hurt of my people.
I can hear the cries of my Grandmothers as they cry for their children.
Grandfather, you can see me as I stand here and feel this hurt.

Father Creator, is this the purpose of my being here.
Or is it your plan to reshape my people
To be once again the proud race it once was?

Let me walk with you and my Grandfathers
Towards the dawning of a proud and new nation.
I thank you for my Sacred Being.

Readings and Reflections

First Reading: Ezekiel 2:2-5

Responsorial Psalm: of the day

Second Reading: II Corinthians 12: 7-10



Gospel Procession

In the spirit of our ancestors the Message Stick can be carried forward (and upright) with the Gospel Book. It should be held upright during the Gospel reading. There are other symbols and actions that can be used according to local sacred tradition and need to be discussed according to local practice. Where appropriate, the didgeridoo and/or clap sticks can accompany the procession.

Suggested Hymn: "Send us your Spirit" or Gospel Acclamation as per Lectionary.

GOSPEL: Mark 6: 1-6

Aboriginal Our Father (Can be sung)

Chorus

**You are our Father, you live in heaven. We talk to you, Father you are good.
You are our Father, you live in heaven. We talk to you, Father you are good.**

1 We believe your Word, Father, we your children give us bread today.
We believe your Word, Father, we your children give us bread today.

2 We have done wrong, we are sorry. Help us Father not to sin again.
We have done wrong, we are sorry. Help us Father not to sin again.

3 Others have done wrong to us, and we are sorry for them, Father today.
Others have done wrong to us, and we are sorry for them, Father today.

4 Stop us from doing wrong, Father. Save us all from the evil one.
Stop us from doing wrong, Father. Save us all from the evil one.

Communion Reflection for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Congregations

Prayer of the Aboriginal People

Father of all you gave us the Dreaming.
You have spoken to us through our beliefs.
You then made your love clear to us in the person of Jesus.
We thank you for your care.

You own us. You are our hope.
Make us strong as we face the problems of change.



We ask you to help the people of Australia
to listen to us and respect our culture.
Make the knowledge of you grow strong in all people,
So that you can be at home in us and
We can make a home for everyone in our land.
Amen

Homily Notes

If the Welcome to Country was not done at the beginning of the Mass the Homily could commence with an Acknowledgment of Country: We begin today by acknowledging the traditional custodians and ancestors (*name the local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people*) of this sacred land where we worship today. We thank the Elders past and present for their care and protection of this land.

Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant: Today we celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday throughout Australia. We pay tribute to the contribution Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander brothers and sisters make to this country. We bring together these prayers to You God of our Forebears, as we listen; and seek mercy, and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Reader: We pray for the Church, Pope Benedict XVI, the Bishops and Priests, that they joyfully follow in your footsteps with the guidance of the Holy Spirit

ALL: We listen and pray the Holy Spirit is with us

Reader: We celebrate this day of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday, for the listening and support of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; we should praise God for the gift of this beautiful country and for its first inhabitants; may we continue to care for one another that is pleasing to God our Creator; and for the strength of the Holy Spirit in their lives as they continue to struggle for truth, equality, justice and healing.

ALL: We listen and pray the Holy Spirit is with us

Reader: We pray for the Stolen Generations for continued justice of the unfinished business, for their reunions and their healing.

ALL: We listen and pray the Holy Spirit is with us

Reader: We pray for the sick and dying, the homeless and imprisoned, those in detention and refuge, the weary and lost, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time. We pray for compassion, healing, wellbeing and protection for those who are suffering. We seek the power of the Spirit.



ALL: We listen and pray the Holy Spirit is with us

Reader: We Honour our Elders for walking with our ancestors and providing such strong custodianships and leadership, for the guidance and nurturing of our Youth. May the spirit of God's love and mercy be evident to them and keep them strong.

ALL: We listen and pray the Holy Spirit is with us

Reader: We pray the Holy Spirit touches the lives of all peoples – bringing trust and hope to friends, families and communities throughout Australia and the World – so they may be guided by your gifts; to love, respect and honour all peoples of all cultures, bringing much needed justice and peace to all God's people.

ALL: We listen and pray the Holy Spirit is with us

Celebrant: We pray Almighty God, as your people, we seek the power of your Spirit. We bring these prayers of needs before you in perfect trust and confidence. Through Christ our Lord.

All Come Holy Spirit. Amen.

Offertory Procession

In some areas the coolamon is used to carry the bread to the altar. In the absence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people participating in the celebration a coolamon can be placed in front of the altar as a symbol of the non presence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander brothers and sisters at the table. (Alternative/additional Aboriginal gifts: a boomerang, woomera, Aboriginal painting, clap sticks ...)

Recommended Preface: As per Ordinary Sunday

Communion Rite: Lord's Prayer and Sign of the Peace

Communion Hymn: "Hymn to the Holy Spirit", "Come Holy Spirit", "Holy Spirit, Come", ALTERNATE "Aboriginal Our Father"

Prayer over the People

Reconciliation Prayer

Holy Father, God of Love

You are the Creator of this land and all good things

We acknowledge the pain and shame of our history

And the suffering of our peoples.

And we ask your forgiveness.

We thank you for the survival of Indigenous cultures

Our hope is in you because you gave your son Jesus

To reconcile the world to you.

We pray for your strength and grace to forgive,

Accept and love one another,

As you love us and forgive and accept us

In the sacrifice of your Son.

Give us the courage to accept the realities of our history

So that we may build a better future for our nation.

Teach us to respect all cultures.

Teach us to care for our land and waters.

Help us to share justly the resources of this land.

Help us to bring about spiritual and social change

To improve the quality of life for all groups in our communities,

Especially the disadvantaged.

Help our young people to find true dignity and self esteem by your Spirit

May your power and love be the foundations

on which we build our families, our communities and our Nation.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Concluding Hymn: “Holy Spirit in this land” alternate “Hymn to the Holy Spirit”, or “All Over the World”

Recessional Procession may be accompanied by the Didgeridoo. Aboriginal Elders join in.



*God's Holy Spirit brings:
Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness,
Goodness, Trustfulness, Gentleness and Self-control*

Show how/illustrate ways these happen in our daily lives



Draw/paint, (using pencils/pastels/acrylic/charcoal, etc) your own Holy Spirit

Make a collage using newspaper/magazines [individual or small group activity]

Fill the dove with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in words, or pictures or story

Write the ways (how does) the Holy Spirit touches (makes contact with us) in our daily lives.

Search for an appropriate picture from magazine/newspaper that shows your example; paste this onto the sheet of paper

NATSICC VISION STATEMENT

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council promotes and celebrates the cultural identity of our peoples across the nation.

By Living and expressing in all its endeavours the spirituality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic peoples. Through this expression and recognition of our cultural identity we will find our rightful place within the Catholic Church in Australia.

NATSICC Logo

The NATSICC Logo depicts a willy willy, the wind force in the centre a symbol of God's Spirit. The round concentric circles at the top symbolise God and Life, the base depicts men and women receiving the Holy Spirit.

The logo was designed by **Mrs Olive Boddington**, Western Australia.

NATSICC COUNCILORS 2006 - 2009

Chairperson Elsie Heiss	New South Wales Representative
Deputy Chair John Lochowiak	South Australian Representative
Secretary Thelma Gertz	Queensland Representative
Treasurer Melissa Brickell	Victorian Representative
Dolly McGaughey	Torres Strait Islander Representative
Ronita Barratt	Tasmanian Representative
Kerri Hogan	Australian Capital Territory Representative
Vacancy	Youth Ambassador Representative

REFERENCES AND SUGGESTIONS

One People one Land NATSICC Jubilee Prayer Aboriginal Our Father	Monica Brown NATSICC Leadership Gathering 1995 Kija people, Kimberley, Western Australia (sometimes referred to as the Lord's Prayer)
Prayer of the Aboriginal people	Prepared by Aboriginal people for the visit to Alice Springs in 1986 of (the late) Pope John Paul II
Reconciliation Prayer	Wontulp Bi-Buya Indigenous Theology Working Group 13 March 1997 Brisbane, Qld.
Hymn to the Holy Spirit	Michael Herry Published by Spectrum Publications

ARTWORK

'**Spirit of our Ancestors**', Melissa Brickell, Yorta Yorta – Wiradjeri, Victoria, 2009; symbols; dove breath and Spirit of God - drawing on the Creator Spirit life that dwell around Australia – the animals, spirit of the various skin and clan groups around the country, land and water – renewal and survival.
'**Spirit Dove**, Children's Activity, Melissa Brickell

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Fr Peter Williams, Executive Secretary, Bishops Commission for Liturgy
Archbishop Hickey, Bishop Heenan, Bishop Saunders and Bishop Prowse. Bishops Committee for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People
Elsie Heiss, NATSICC, Chairperson and NATSICC Councillors
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NATSICC acknowledge the prayers and songs as listed above and are grateful for their use.

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